■ NEWS/A16
Guess who came to Palace? Time reporter being hunted by DOJ

■ BUSINESS/B1
Exports jumped 18.7% in April to $3.85B; 4-month shipments up to $14.75B

■ METRO/A18
Movie theater designed by National Artist Pablo Antonio faces demolition

■ SAT. SPECIAL/A2-1
Jennifer Aniston now a bankable star; her latest starrer is 'giant-killer'

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, June 10, 2006 ** 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 182 P18

DENR's partners' lounge turns into room of discord

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources launched yesterday the Kalusugan lounge, where environmentalists, nongovernment organizations and business partners

DENR'S A4

GMA-Senate mutual distrust resulted in failed budget

By Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ADMINISTRATION REP. JOEY SALCEDA, A CLOSE presidential ally and economic adviser, yesterday said the failed budget process was "a product of [the] mutual suspicion" between President Macapagal-Arroyo and the senators.

Salceda, who headed the House panel in the

GMA-SENATE A4

SC error led to execution

Cops' quick verdict: No 'jueteng' in Pineda blast

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—AN early morning explosion yesterday damaged the steel gate of the house of alleged gambling king Bautista "Bong" Pineda, but police quickly dismissed the incident as an upshot of a turf war among the country's supposed "jueteng" lords.

Pineda and his family were at their Metro Manila home at the time of the blast, which occurred eight days after two powerful explosions in Batangas province nearly killed Gov. Armando Sanchez, also an alleged gambling lord.

Both Pineda and Sanchez have denied any involvement in the illegal numbers racket.

Central Luzon police director Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan indicated he saw no link between the two incidents.

"Definitely, there's no turf war between Mr. Pineda and Governor Sanchez because in the first place, reports we received showed that not one of them is active or in any way involved now in jueteng," Rafanan told the Inquirer.

Still, Rafanan said, he was hearing that angle for the Batan-

COPS! A6

HAVE BATONS, WATER CANNONS, WILL DISPERSE
Peasant groups clash with antiriot police as they reach Mendiola Bridge to express their outrage against the killings of their colleagues with alarming regularity. In the past two days alone, two militant leaders were killed, one in Isabela on Thursday night and in Sorsogon the following day. (Story on Page A2.)

JOY ANDAYA

Worst still to come, Bulusan folk warned

By Bobby Lakulan
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CASIGURAN, SORSOGON—SCientists yesterday warned Mount Bulusan could spew dangerous volcanic flows, after a former chief of an asthma attack believed induced by ash falls.

The municipal council placed Casiguran under a state of calamity to prepare "for the worst that could happen," Mayor Edwin Hamor said.

He said preparations were under way for the evacuation of about 10,000 residents from at least seven villages in case of a major eruption, according to the Associated Press.

The calamity declaration was also intended to speed up the delivery of assistance and facilitate clearing up operations in affected areas, Hamor said.

Hamor identified the fatality as Vicente Guevarra, 55, a farmer of Barangay San Juan this town—the first fatality to be reported around Bulusan following the volcano's eruption on Wednesday night.

The eruption reduced visibility in Casiguran to zero.

"He (Guevarra) is an indirect

WORST A6

Echegaray should have lived, says Chief Justice

By Armand N. Nocum

CHIEF JUSTICE ARTemio Panganiban has admitted that there may have been a "judicial error" in the death of Leo Echegaray, the first convict to be executed following the passage of Republic Act No. 7659 or the death penalty law.

Seven years after his death by lethal injection, Echegaray should not have been executed, Panganiban said. He should have been given life imprisonment because RA 7659 prescribes capital punishment for rape perpetrated by the "common-law spouse of the parent of the victim," a qualifying circumstance which was not alleged in the complaint.

Panganiban said the complaint alleged that the victim was the daughter of Echegaray. However, it was proven during the trial that he was not "a father, stepfather or grandfather" of the victim. The court nonetheless affirmed his death sentence.

Panganiban, who had consu-

SC ERROR A9

MAGNIFICENT 7 MINUS ONE: As reported no member of Fernando Poe's family is present to receive the National Artist Award for film from President Arroyo (center) at the Palace. The other awardees flanked (leftover) by CCP Chair Emily Abrera and (extreme right) NCCA Chair Rodolfo Duenas are from left, Benedicto Cabrera (painting), Ramon Obusan (dance), Bienvenido Lumbera (literature), Federico Aguilar Alcuaz (architecture), Lourdes Virata-Zubiaga (jersey) for her deceased brother Ramon Virata, ceramics by Salvador Araguiz and Abdulmari Asia Imao (sculpture). (Story on Page A-14.)

DepEd's madrasah program teaches vital values to Muslim kids

Jocelyn R. Uy

A YEAR AGO, 10-YEAR-OLD Sahalia was on her teacher's list of unruly students.

Sahalia would ignore her ustadz (teacher) even if she banged iron bar in the hallway. She would slap her assistants for no reason and would get into catfights. She would also sniff candy wrappers in between the cracks on her table.

Things changed after a year of attending the Madrasah program at the Maharlika Elementary School in Taguig City, according to Salima Guimba, an ustadz handling Sahalia's Islamic values and Arabic language class.

Guimba said that through the Madrasah program, an ustadz would be able to teach children vital things that their parents neglected to impart to them.

"Most of the parents expect or tend to their children because they are busy earning a living selling goods in Barbosa and Greenhills," she said.

The Department of Education

DEPED'S A6

Lawyers argue: Would a rapist use a condom?

By Veli Contreras and Tarra V. Quismundo

WOULD A RAPIST USE A CONdom?

The lawyers of the four US Marines accused of raping a 19-year-old woman raised the question yesterday in reporters after a prosecution witness recalled having recovered a "used condom" in the parking lot where "Nicole" was dumped by her alleged abusers.

But in a separate interview, private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua had a snappy reply to the question: Yes, rape can be committed even by someone who's mindful of "safe sex."

The off-court exchange followed the testimony of Subic Bay Freeport security officer Jaime Avila Jr., who recounted to direct examinations before Judge Benjamin Pozon of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139 how he saw and picked up "evidence" of "possible molestation."

On cross-examination, Avila conceded that he could not tell where the condom came from,

LAWYERS A6

US confirms Zarqawi betrayed by his own

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—IN RECENT weeks, United States officials said, they had begun following a man who they believed could lead them directly to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. His "spiritual adviser," a man named Sheikh Abd al-Rahman.

A member of al-Zarqawi's network, captured by the Americans, had told them that the sheik was al-Zarqawi's most trusted adviser.

Some weeks ago, US officials said, they began tracking al-Rahman with a remotely piloted aircraft, hoping he would lead them to their quarry.

"The gentleman was key to our success in finding Zarqawi," said Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, the spokesperson for the US military in Baghdad. "Through painstaking intelligence effort, they were able to start tracking him, monitoring his movements and establishing when he was doing his link-ups with Zarqawi."

Yet for all the excitement, one critical piece of the puzzle still remained: The Americans might be able to track al-Rahman, but how would they know when he was meeting with al-Zarqawi?

The Americans had gotten close before, but al-Zarqawi managed to escape.

What the Americans had always lacked was someone inside al-Zarqawi's network. al-Qaida

US CONFIRMS A3

PROOF OF DEATH: Photo of the body of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is on display at a press conference in Baghdad conducted by US military spokesperson, Maj. Gen. William Caldwell.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Cops, farmers clash in Mendiola

SC reverses Sandigan, upholds Romualdez seat in Equitable board

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT YESterday overturned a Sandiganbayan ruling which barred the Romualdez-owned Trans Middle East Equities Inc. (TMEI) from voting its shares in Equitable PCI Bank during the bank's recent annual stockholders meeting.

In a 24-page decision, the high tribunal also declared as invalid the election during the May 23, 2006 EPCIB annual stockholders' meeting of another nominee to the bank's board of directors to which the TMEI is entitled to a representation.

The court also directed the EPCIB board and the bank's corporate secretary to recognize the nominee of TMEI to the board as a duly elected member of the board in place of the person who was elected during the May 2006 stockholders meeting.

"Clearly, TMEI is entitled to one seat on the board of directors of EPCIB. There is the option of cancelling the entire election, but such step would be cumbersome in light of the fact that only one of the 15 seats should be necessarily affected upon the scoring of TMEI's nominee to the board of directors. The more prudent step on the part of the Court is to declare that one nominee or representative of TMEI is entitled to be seated immediately on the board," the SC said.

The resolution, penned by Associate Justice Dante Tinga, was voted upon by 13 of the 15 members of the high court.

A day before the EPCIB annual stockholders' meeting, the Sandiganbayan issued a ruling declaring that a temporary restraining order issued 14 years ago, remained in effect, thus, disqualifying TMEI majority owned by the Romualdez family from voting its shares and electing its representative in the board.

The petitioner in the TMEI vs Ello case, represented by Atty. Estelito Mendoza, sought to reverse the ruling of the anti-graft court barring them from voting the disputed shares at EPCIB.

TMEI said it owned 51.8 million EPCIB shares, equivalent to 7.22 percent of the bank's total outstanding capital stock.

On April 10, 1986, some 6,111,067 shares were acquired by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) on suspicion that they were acquired illegally by Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, brother-in-law of the late ex-president Ferdinand Marcos.

These shares are now subject of a recovery case pending before the Sandiganbayan.

According to court, there is no serious dispute that TMEI would have been entitled to one seat on the 13-man board had it been able to vote its shares.

"However, relying on the null and void resolution of the Sandiganbayan, respondents board of directors and corporate secretary have been enjoined from voting its shares and electing its nominee or representative to the board of directors," the SC decision said.

Joker: GMA not to blame for cut in HR compensation

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO should not be blamed for the P6-billion reduction in the proposed compensation for human rights victims of martial law, administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said.

Party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales also the other day accused Malacañang of ordering the reduction of the amount from P11 billion to P6 billion when House Bill 5215 was being finalized. The House passed its version of the bill early this week.

Arroyo recalled that the subject of the P6-billion compensation figure cropped up during the Senate budget hearings in January.

He said the then Budget Secretary Romulo Neri and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told their would convert it.

Arroyo said the House proposals of the measure should have taken their cue from the two officials before finalizing the bill.

"You can't blame the President for everything," the senator said.

According to Rosales, who chairs the human rights committee, the House bill originally provided for ₱200 million for P11 billion at P52 to-the-dollar exchange rate in 2004) but the Senate leaders, allegedly on Palace orders, changed the denomination into pesos and fixed the amount at P6 billion.

Rosales said the bill she had to comply or the bill would not have passed. She said she also inquired the amount to be restored to P11 billion at the bicameral conference.

The Senate version, SB 1745, which is still being debated, sets the amount at ₱200 million.

Arroyo said that during the budget hearings he called the attention of Neri and Teves to the fact that only P6 billion had been allocated for rights abuse victims.

The two said that the President had given instructions to cut only this amount for the victims back in January 2004 when the recovered Marcos-Swiss deposits were turned over to the National Treasury.

According to Arroyo, when he reminded them that the amount of ₱200 million was specified in the bill that the President had ratified, Neri said this could still be corrected.

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A FAMILIAR STREET CONFRONTATION AT THE foot of Mendiola Bridge was reenacted yesterday and for both sides, ended in what has become a pointless conclusion.

Some 500 militant farmers determined to take their protest against what they called "a bogus land reform program" straight to the doorstep of Malacañang yesterday were earlier dispersed by Manila riot policemen equally determined not to let them have their way on their watch.

The protesters, members of the following Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (BMP), Bayan, Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Migrante, staged their march early on the governments marked the 15th anniversary of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

"The CARP is nothing but a pro-gun program to appease farmers who are being displaced from their lands," KMP information officer Cielo Ma. said.

The protesters cried harassment when the police prevented them from stepping on Mendiola Bridge, the heavily-protected approach to Malacañang.

They had gathered in front of the University of the Philippines to amend 9:00 a.m. but were blocked on P. Noval Street as they marched by the Manila Police District's (MPD) Civil Disturbance Management unit.

Police moved to disperse the protesters now 20 more Bayan (Bayan) to arrest. In the clash, at least four protesters and two policemen were injured.

The militants then converged in Espana street corner F. Campa streets, where they held a program and marched until 11:30 a.m.

"We will not allow the protesters to go further. They intoxicated the violence," Sr. Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, MPD operations chief, said in an interview at the time.

But immediately after the program, the militants began to march, passing through P. Noval and Hurtados streets and reaching the intersection in front of Mendiola Bridge at 12:05 p.m.

The police gave the group five minutes to leave the area. A second clash between protesters and policemen ensued. Thereafter, the police dispersed the crowd using water cannons.

"The dispersal on Espana street and Mendiola Bridge showed the real fascist character of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime," KMP information officer Cielo Ma. said.

Danilo Ramos, KMP secretary general, said the militants had a right to hold the protest action. "We applied for a rally permit last month, but it had not been acted upon," he said as he presented a copy of the groups' request letter addressed to Manila Mayor Lito Atienco.

Ramos was drawing attention to the law on public assembly, which states that if a local chief executive fails to act on a permit application within two working days, the permit is deemed granted.

"We were forced to use to Hurtados street and hold the rest of our program near the church," Alcuitel.

At least 10 militants suffered a variety of injuries, including wounds and contusions.

Mark Jimenez can nail Erap even more – Chavit

By Lala B. Saberola

ILOCOS SUR GOVERNOR LUIS "Chavit" Singson believes the testimony of Mark Jimenez will help the prosecution, but without bearing him with the plunder case against former President Joseph Estrada.

Singson said that if Jimenez took the witness stand, the latter's testimony would still be "very important" because of his knowledge of the Jose Velarde bank accounts.

"Legally, he does not need to testify because the case is already good. But if he testifies, that would nail (Estrada) more more," Singson told reporters at the Ambassador hotel forum in Manila.

He said Jimenez's testimony would reveal the people who deposited money into the Jose Velarde account at the Equitable PCI Bank.

"Mark (Jimenez) knows a lot about the billions and billions that went into that account so if he testifies, he would be a very important witness," Singson said. "He's on initial, he knows everything. I only mentioned the name of one deposit, but I (Jimenez) knows many of them."

Estrada earlier admitted to signing as Jose Velarde, but maintained he did it as a favor to friend Jaime Dichaves, who he claimed owned the bank account.

The former president had been accused of using the said bank account to conceal his ill-gotten wealth, an allegation he had denied. Estrada was ousted as president and subsequently charged with plunder following Singson's exposé about the former's alleged receipt of kickbacks from the tobacco excise tax.

Singson also said he was not the one who convinced Jimenez to attend Estrada's plunder trial Monday on backwages, adding Jimenez had long wanted to do so.

Jimenez was once described by Estrada as a "corporate pirate." But the formerly amicable relationship with the ex-President has apparently turned sour, with Jimenez calling Estrada a "traitor" and "bill of lost" while Estrada called Jimenez a character hard to describe.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio informed the court he might present Jimenez to refute Estrada's testimonies, a move which the defense objected to.

Jimenez, for his part, told reporters on Wednesday that he did not want to testify against Estrada because the latter was "already guilty."

Meanwhile, Singson said yesterday that he was opposed to house arrest for the former President because the latter was already enjoying house arrest at his Tanay, Rizal resthouse.

"I don't like (Estrada) being given a lot of privileges. In other countries, when there are cases against presidents, they are in uniform and are in handcuffs. But here, he is in a rest house," he said.

Singson also said he did not care if Estrada would be pardoned later, as long as he would be convicted first.

Gov wants 'jueteng' legalized

By Lala B. Saberola

SINGSON

THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE legalization of "jueteng" are unknowingly helping gambling lords get what they want, according to Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Singson said that by keeping jueteng illegal, the government is depriving itself of the income that it could have earned from running the numbers game.

"Those who are anti-legalization unknowingly give help to the jueteng lords. Those jueteng lords don't want the game legalized because part of their income would go to the government," Singson said at the Ambassador Hotel forum.

He also said yesterday that he believes that jueteng has increased but he does not think that the set-up was the same during the time of former President Joseph Estrada, when he claimed jueteng operations were centralized and protected.

"Now, the operators work on their own," he said.

The Singson has governor had testified to Estrada's plunder trial that he had acted as the coordinator of Estrada's monthly take from jueteng operators when the latter was president. His exposé eventually led to Estrada's ouster and the filing of plunder charges against him.

Singson said yesterday that jueteng should be legalized and run by the government because it provides jobs to the unemployed.

"This should be legalized because it helps a lot of people," he said.

Agrarian Reform Beyond

"Tanda ito ng tuntunit tagumpay ng aming mga magsasaka sa mga reporma sa lupain. "Palatandaan nanin an gating kanugnan sgnang magpropd ang ating kanugnan sa kanilaran."

—Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

"CARP is a continuing program. As the program progresses, it gathers more steam with more support coming in from various institutions. Sa pagsasa-ankad ng mga komunidad na bunga nitong, kinukulangan ang mga ito ng suporang serbisyo at iba't ibang uri na napormang ayuda."

— Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) is 18 years this week. As of December 2005, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has secured the land tenure of 2.13 million farmers through the distribution of 3.7 million hectares of agricultural lands nationwide.

The DAR commits to distribute the remaining 680,000 hectares of agricultural lands by 2008, the program's perceived closure. But there is a rising clamor that good things must not end.

Land distribution is the start. Provision of support services follows. The DAR forms agrarian reform communities and provides farm-to-market roads, bridges, irrigation, post-harvest facilities, rural electrification, potable water supply, school buildings, extension and training services, and credit assistance.

Social Justice has been achieved. Production has increased. Lives have improved. Peace has prevailed. This is CARP.

2008

CARP gains International Support

- P42.6-B resources mobilized for administrative and support services to ARCs
- 32 projects worth P12.67-B completed
- 22 projects worth P28.5-B are ongoing
- 2 new projects are being implemented in 95 ARCs in regions V, 9, 12 and ARMM
- International funding institutions helping agrarian reforms are:
  - World Bank
  - Australian Aid
  - European Union
  - State of Israel
  - Japan-PHRD
  - Government of Belgium
  - Government of Spain
  - Asian Development Bank
  - Government f of Germany
  - United Nations Development Program
  - Japan Bank for International Cooperation
  - International Food Aid Development
  - Japan/Saral Development Fund
  - World Bank-Japan Social Development Fund
- 1,784 agrarian reform communities developed nationwide
- 5,653 farmers' organizations formed with 497,285 members

What independent studies say:

- Agrarian Reform Community Development Project (ARCDP) interventions made positive and significant changes on the lives of the rural households in 36 ARCDP communities
- Peoples' organizations and agrarian reform beneficiaries (POs/ ARBs) have superior performance
- POs/ARBs have higher investment value, area planted, credit availment and farm productivity than the POs/ARBs in non-ARCDP areas
- Poverty incidence among the POs/ARBs is lower and the proportion of respondents who have positive perception about socio-economic conditions is higher in ARCDP sites
- Total nominal income of all respondents increased by 32.4%

—Impact assessment study on World Bank's Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

- 20.1% increase in the farmers' income
- 36% increase in coverage rice production
- 34% reduction in farmers' transport cost
- 59% reduction in farmers' travel time
- 152% increase in water available to for potable drinking

—Cyber Philippines, Inc., an independent group commissioned by the Development Bank of the Philippines to determine the impact of the Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project

- Strong increase in community solidarity among agrarian reform beneficiaries as well as the non-agrarian reform beneficiaries
- Significant decrease in share tenancy, landselling, and incidence of owner cultivatorship
- Farmers and landowners more confident to invest more on physical and human capital
- Being an agrarian reform beneficiary and being in an agrarian reform community reduces one's chances of being poor
- Agrarian reform communities, if properly implemented, improves the economic condition, social capital, civic entrepreneurship, and democratic participation of the communities
- Reduction of social conflicts and increased peace and order

—Integrated Report on the CARP Assessment Studies by the Institute of Agrarian and Rural Development Studies of the University of the Philippines, the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) and the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC) of the Ateneo de Manila

What farmers say:

Arturo Germanes
Guimba, Quezon

"Sa dalim ng voluntary land transfer ay nagkaroon ako ng pagkaon sa mahirabris sa lahat. Marami akong natutuhang leksiyon at pagsusumay para makatulong sa amin. Sa ngayon, mi dagdag na lito sa ako-dahil sa pagkilanes at pag-aalaga ng mga mawak Salamat sa DAR."

Aldrin C. Aghayani
Vintar, Ilocos Norte

"Hilang anak ng CARP beneficiary, pinahal po akong magtapos ng pag-aaral sa dalim ng President Diosdado Macapagal Agrarian Scholarship Program ng DAR sa kursong Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Plano ko pong tulungan ang aking pamilya sa pamamagitan ng labor ng aking mga natutunan lalo na sa vegetable production, goat raising, farming, pag-gamit ng organic pesticides at fertilizers, at pag-ipon ng capital para makapag-negosyo."

Rosendo Arengel
Hidango, Bataan

"Lagi akong nag-iimpok galing sa kinikita ko sa pagsasaka. Naimmon ako dahil sa government facility na kaloob ng DAR, nagagawa ko ring matulungan ang iba pang magsasaka sa dalim ng Lakbay Aral, na matuto ng iba-iba pa sa pagtatanim at pagpapalago ng kabuhayan."

Domingo Bazar
Bato, Camarines Sur

"Pagsasabali sa garvain at pagtatapok para sa kinabukasan ang isa't upang pangalagaan ang lupang kaloob ng DAR sa mga magsasaka tulad ko. Marami ako dahil mas mabile na ang pamilya ko at ramon na akong pwedeng ibahagi sa kapwa ko magsasaka dito sa Camarines Sur, lalo't sa usual growing, hybridization technology, crop rotation at pagsasagawa ng produktong pang-agrikultura."

Cesar Bonifacino
Sorsogon City

"Nagpg interesado ako na magtanim ng pili sa dalim ng aking lupa dagdag ito sa aking kinikita sa pagsasaka. Napakaganda talaga proyekto ng DAR, nakakatulong talaga sa tao. Sigurado pagkatapos ng limang taon, marami akong namibot na pili. Salamat!"

CARP helps people change their lives.
CARP brings prosperity and peace.
CARP must go beyond 2008.

Department of Agrarian Reform
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

Noli seeks to expand RP-China trade, travel

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESTERday asked local officials of Jiangsu province and Shanghai in China to help promote trade, tourism and travel between the two countries.

De Castro made the plea for tourism promotion during his courtesy call on Jiangsu and Shanghai officials in his ongoing official visit to China.

During their meetings, De Castro conveyed to Chinese officials the Philippine government's intention of expanding relations with the different provinces and cities of China.

"Maybe our local travel agents can forge ties with their counterparts in Jiangsu and Shanghai to spur tourists traffic between the Philippines and their respective destinations," he said.

De Castro sought the assistance of Jiangsu and Shanghai's respective governments to encourage state-owned companies and other corporations covered in the Philippines-asia delegation to the group's second ministerial-level offsites.

"For the past decade, trade between our two countries has progressed steadily, but we would like to further increase the Philippines' share in our foreign trade," he said.

He said the government had undertaken reforms to attract more investments to diversify industries, streamlining processes and introducing policy reforms to ensure a more investment-friendly environment.

In particular, he said, the Philippines encourages investments in motor vehicle parts and components, electronics, textile manufacturing and agriculture.

The Vice President also cited the Philippine's "high-quality professional services in information technology engineering, architectural design and construction management."

"The Philippines recognizes our economic strengths in these areas, and I hope that businessmen from both sides would explore cooperation in the two countries," he said.

De Castro conveyed the government's desire to strengthen cooperation with China in the areas of information exchange and investment promotion networking through the relevant offices and institutions in the Chinese provinces and cities.

Bishops hit mention of condoms in public school's sex education

THE INFLUENTIAL ROMAN CATHOLIC church yesterday criticized the Philippine government's mention of artificial contraceptives, particularly condoms, in school sex education courses.

A letter from the Catholic bishops' conference on family life said the inclusion of contraceptives in lessons taught to teenagers was "disturbing."

The letter, sent to the education department, said the new education course "distorts basic values, restraint and responsibility, as it implies that sexual activity outside of marriage is acceptable for as long as it does not result in unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases."

It singled out the mention of condoms in the lessons, saying the department failed to mention that condoms were not "100 percent" effective in preventing sexual activity-related diseases.

Sex education is being integrated in lessons on science, health and civics in government-run schools starting this month. AFP

LESSONS in Arabic, cleanliness, moderation, Islamic values, Allah and "Assalamu alaikum" (Peace be with you) at the Mabuhay Elementary School in Tagaig City. MANNY MORALES

Worst still to come, Bulusan folk warned

By Inquirer staff

Residents of Bulusan volcano in Sorsogon province were warned Friday that the worst was yet to come as the restive mountain continued to belch ash and steam, and could unleash a violent explosion that would be "many times more powerful" than the eruption that killed one person and forced thousands to flee their homes.

Renato Solidum Jr., director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), said the volcano's activity was "very unpredictable" and could not be ruled out as a precursor to a major eruption.

"We cannot say that the worst is over. We cannot say that the worst is yet to come. We cannot say that the worst is in between," Solidum said in a press conference in Quezon City.

Solidum said the volcano's activity was "very similar" to that of Mount Pinatubo in 1991, which killed hundreds of people and displaced thousands more.

Phivolcs said the volcano's alert level remained at 3, which means that a hazardous eruption is possible within days or weeks.

Solidum said the volcano's activity could last for months, or even years.

Phivolcs said the volcano's activity could also subside, but it warned that the danger of a major eruption remained

AFP loses track of Abu Sayyaf leader

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY HAS ADMITTED IT HAS lost track of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani, less than a year after claiming it was only a "matter of time" before it captures the wanted Basilan leader.

Col. Ernesto Abella, Armed Forces public information chief, said they (us) can only surmise reports that Janjalani has moved to his province or fled to Jolo, Sulu.

He said they have no confirmed reports on Janjalani's whereabouts.

Janjalani, who carries cash bounties of P100 million and P10 million on his head, was last reported to have been seen in Maguindanao.

As leader of Abu Sayyaf Janjalani is responsible for several high-profile kidnappings and terrorist activities. Janjalani is wanted by both the Philippine and United States governments.

"There are intelligence reports and at the moment that's we don't have confirmatory reports of exact [Janjalani's] presence," Abella said.

He should take undue comfort that these people are highly mobile. That is also their strategy to confuse the troops," he added.

On July 12 last year, the military declared that Janjalani and his men have been cornered to Talipao, Maguindanao.

Then AFP public information chief Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said elements from the Light Reaction Company were in Maguindanao, and there was a "matter of time" before they get the elusive Abu Sayyaf leader.

The military lately believes that Janjalani is with Indonesian Omar Patek and Dulmatin, alleged members of Jemaah Islamiyah suspected of masterminding the 2002 Bali, Indonesia bombings.

Idec
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PCGG chief's removal not true—Palace

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Eduardo Ermita yesterday squelched reports that Malacañang had requested Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio to resign, the highest Cabinet official said.

Sabio is in Toronto, Canada, attending a conference on international law.

Ermita said he signed the travel authority for Sabio 10 days ago. He said this was what probably triggered the speculation that the chairman of the panel is on the way out.

No official word

The other day, reporters covering the Palace (PCGG) received by fax copies of an apparent order from Malacañang designating Ahmad to his boss' replacement.

According to the document dated June 5, Ahmad was "appointed Acting Chairman, Presidential Commission on Good Government, Office of the President, vice Camilo L. Sabio." It carried the signature of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sabio himself said on Thursday that he had yet to receive a copy of the supposed order, and that he did not believe such an order had been issued.

Nonetheless, he reiterated that he was serving at the pleasure of the President.

Ahmad yesterday declined to comment, saying it was better that he did not want to add fuel to the fire.

For all, he said he had not received "any official communication, when he received [a similar] question on reported appointment for successor. Such involving the Marcos assets and the estimated P200-billion coconut levy fund.

He invoked a provision in Executive Order No. 1, which created the PCGG, saying an officer or employee of the commission could be compelled to answer questions during a legislative inquiry like silence led to a "new budget" reconciliation for the PCGG.

Sabio has pursued a similar track and entered into talks for a compromise agreement with the Marcoses for a part of their ill-gotten wealth—estimated between $5 billion and $10 billion—in exchange for the dropping of charges against them, said C. Quinzon in *Usapang Ayaan* and Alcuin Papa.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, June 10, 2006
Vida Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Tim 4:1-8
Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

As many are reading, let also and to them, "Beware of those students of the Law who enjoy walking around in long robes and being greeted in the marketplaces, and who like to occupy reserved seats in the synagogues and the first places at feasts. They even devour the widow's and the orphan's goods while making a show of long prayers. Such persons will receive the severest condemnation."

As we are drawn opposite the temple treasury and watched the people dropping money into the collection box, and many rich people put in large offerings. But a poor widow also came and dropped in two small coins.

Then Jesus called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all those who gave offerings. For all of them gave from their plenty, but she gave from her poverty put in everything she had, her very living."

COMMENTARY

We are to preach the Word always and we are to be faithful. We are not to allow it to flow. It's easier to take our ears to us than it is what others want to hear, not take the pleasures and use them to teach and to heal us. It is often to comfort us, correct us, rebuke us, exhort, call us to deeper love, love of enemies, neighbor to deeds of holiness. We are not to use it as others. But to be faithful to us so that we may love more clearly.

Jesus is clear: the widow addresses to others who give out of her own substance, but out of need. In this one to observe, and not those who are flashy and public in what it means to be a believer. We are preaching to give our lives, not for public audience.

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Per SSS MCP Report (Jan-Feb 2006), Sources of Data

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANILA UM
OPENING OF CLASSES: JUNE 13, 2006
COURSES AND DEGREES OFFERED:
GRADUATE PROGRAMS:
• Doctor of Education
• Doctor of Public Administration
• Master of Laws
• Master of Public Administration
• Master of Business Administration
• MA in Education Major in: Administration & Supervision, Guidance & Counseling
• MA in Political Science
• MA in History
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS:
• Bachelor of Laws
• Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
• Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Major in: Banking & Finance, Economics Management, Marketing
• Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
• Bachelor of Industrial Engineering
• Bachelor of Science in Criminology
• Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service
• Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
• Bachelor of Science in Hotel & Restaurant Management
• Bachelor of Arts Major in: Japarology, Political Science, History, Economics, Public Administration, English
• Bachelor of Science in Education Major in: English, Pilipino, Mathematics, Science, History, Guidance & Counseling, Computer Science, Library Science
• Bachelor of Elementary Education
SHORT TERM PROGRAMS:
• Associate in Computer Technology (2 years)
• 2 year Hotel & Restaurant Management
• 2 year Computer Secretarial
HIGH SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY
REVIEW COURSES:
REGULAR / ADVANCED PRE-BAR REVIEW
CPA BOARD REVIEW
CRIMINOLOGY BOARD REVIEW
CIVIL ENGINEERING REFRESHER COURSE
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US confirms Zarqawi betrayed by his own

Front page ▸

In Mesopotamia, who would believe him—someone close enough and trusted enough to throw the Americans where he was.

According to a Pentagon official, the Americans finally got one. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because details of the raid are classified, said that no Iraqi intelligent inside al-Qaida in Mesopotamia provided the critical piece of intelligence about al-Zabawi's meeting with al-Zarqawi.

The source's identity wasn't clear—nor will it clear how that information came to pass—but it helped set the stage for the bombing airborne getting killed himself.

"We have a pair on the inside who led us directly to al-Zarqawi," the official said.

In a rarest release on Thursday morning, the military officials described finally enough that a member of al-Zarqawi's inner circle had pointed the way.

"Tips and intelligence from Iraqi forces leader from his network led to the location of al-Zarqawi," the news release said.

Sold out by one of his own

Iraqi officials confirmed that al-Zarqawi had indeed been sold out by one of his own.

"We have no reason not to believe this organization," said Mowaffak al-Rubaie, Iraq's national security advisor. He declined to elaborate.

Just how the Americans were able to receive the information from the Iraqi leader is unclear.

"We had absolutely no doubt whatsoever that al-Zarqawi was in the house," said Caldwell. "There was 100 percent confirmation."

The decision to bomb al-Zarqawi was made in large part because military officials feared he might escape again. If 18 and Iraqi forces moved in on the ground, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said during an appearance at Baltimore-Washington International.

2 bombs from fighter jet

A US Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcon fighter jet took dropped two 227 kg (500-pound) bombs on a house in a cotton-growing area a village north of Baghdad, killing the most-wanted man in Iraq, said Lt. Gen. Gary Heath, the top air commander in the region.

Heath, briefing Pentagon reporters by telephone from Qatar, said two F-16s were involved in the mission, but only one dropped bombs—a laser-guided GBU-12 and satellite-guided GBU-38 called Direct Attack Munition, or DAM.

It was a "medium-altitude attack just like in 2004, the pow-wow and will be operating on a one-word budget for the rest of the year.

Sabeels, who chairs the House appropriations committee, said it was the President and not the vote for the increased outlay was.

"It's really a team [reinforced conference] since the Executive cuts a shadow over the entire ex-cecisi," he said.

Secondarily, the House passed is $34.6 billion budget to early April, but came around to supporting the $7.451 billion originally proposed by Malacañang.

The Senate came out with a supposedly leaner version last week of $7.37 billion, slashing 929 billion in programmed and $57 billion to unprogrammed appropriations.

'Tricameral' conference

Reasoned talks and backdoor negotiations between Sabeels and his counterpart, Sen. Manuel Villar, to reconcile the two versions, bogged down last Monday.

Who will get $25M?

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States government has not yet identified who will receive the $25-million reward offered for helping to capture or kill the late Iraq al-Qaida leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the State Department said Thursday. (Friday in Manila).

"I've seen a lot of news reports that offers a Jordanian individual or group provided information, or perhaps a neighbor provided information which led to the raid that was carried out successfully. I can't confirm those reports," said State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack.

"And, I don't have any information at this point that would lead me this person or group is ... till hasn't been arrested at the point," he added.

Al-Zarqawi, who orchestrated a bloody campaign of attacks and beheadings in Iraq, was killed Wednesday in an airstrike on a safe house north of Baghdad, US and Iraqi officials said.

The State Department has received more than 1,000 people calling in the months or death of al-Qaida leader. Making the reward involves a formal process starting with a request from an involved government agency and then an investigation to see if the person deserves the reward.

Some $62 million has been paid out by the State Department's Rewards for Justice program to informants and others for helping capture terror suspects, it said.

The program is offering $25 million for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. AFP

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'Treasure trove of information'

Forensic experts are conducting a DNA test on al-Zarqawi and results are expected in 48 hours, Caldwell said.

Two photographs of the corpse of the bearded al-Zarqawi with his eyes shut were displayed at the news conference. His body lay in a pool of blood. His mouth was filled with blood and there were gashes in his chest and forehead.

A military video of the strike that killed al-Zarqawi was also presented.

Caldwell said sequestrate to. Construction was based of the location that led to 17 simultaneous raids later that night in Baghdad and its outskirts that uncovered a "treasure trove" of information.

Al-Zarqawi in Iraq's most-wanted list

Name	Abu Musab al-Zarqawi
Nationality	Jordanian
Age	39
Height	5'7"
Weight	170 lbs
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Reward	$25 million

Abdul-Rahman knew from identified.

'Treasure trove of information'

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GMA-Senate mutual distrust resulted in failed budget

Front page ▸

threatened conference committee that bought back the two versions of the 2006 billion that the Senate cut out of the proposed P1.033 trillion budget, said the purely national exercise of appropriating the budget was "a mission impossible" for Congress.

He said the process this year was scuttled by Senate fears of being abolished because of the administration driven move to change the Constitution and the prospects of the 2007 elections.

"Both Malacañang and the Senate [are] engaged in elaborate political exercises [with other] competitive positions in a troubled atmosphere [creating] acceptance synergy ahead of the 2007 elections," said Sabeels.

'Bastardized'

Senators also deplored the failure of Congress yet again to approve a new budget, with members of the administration bloc, Aklan senator remarking that it seems Congress was failing the "power of the purse" of the executive.

Arroyo's insistence on the crucial process of legislating the national budget has been "bastardized."

"How easy it is now to resort to a reenacted budget," he said.

Pimentel said he feels even the peace that President has been dropping away at Congress' "power of the purse."

"The power of the President over the budget has accumulated over the years," he said.

Sen. Ralph Recto bluntly said there should have been more flexibility among the members of the legislative bicameral committee.

President Ebrahim Alonto should also have been flexible instead of insisting that there should be no cut at all in the budget proposed by Malacañang," he said.

"It's not good to have a reenacted budget. The budget of 2005 was enacted to meet the needs of 2005. What was good for 2005 is not good for 2006. We have to have a new budget by 2006," he said.

Malacañang also blames policy for the failure of Congress to pass the national budget for 2006 but even its own economic congressional subordinates the Palace must bear some responsibility for the Executive branch's urgency that made a reenacted 2005 budget a certainty.

"The reality is that while the Palace proposes, it is Congress that disposes. The fact that politics has stood in the path of the public interest is regrettable," said Pete Bercelon Quirin Bunag.

The House had approved a P1.465-trillion budget in early April, but came around to supporting the P1.451-trillion originally proposed by Malacañang.

The Senate came out with a supposedly leaner version last week of P1.37 trillion, slashing 929 billion in programmed and $57 billion to unprogrammed appropriations.

'Tricameral' conference

Reasoned talks and backdoor negotiations between Sabeels and his counterpart, Sen. Manuel Villar, to reconcile the two versions, bogged down last Monday.

SALCEDO: GMA no die-hard

VILLAR: Failure of leader

acted just like in 2004, the power-

acting that he was "unwavering" negotiating "with people we openly wanted to abolish."

Answering up the political decision was true amended the budget bicameral conference, Sabeels said: Politics is the big picture. Economics is the biggest boon. The answer pays the price for their complacency and bad choices."

He said passing supplemental budgets to address the problems of lawmakers amid worsening economic problems is a crippled 2006 budget would be "like prescribing a cure for a disease an ourselves created."

In a political environment wrecked by a continuing crisis of legitimacy, he said the several supplemental of the budget since Mrs Arroyo came to power in 2004 were not only to be expected but "almost preordained."

Yesterday, Malacañang vowed to make sure it would deliver on key socioeconomic programs, even with fewer resources under a reenacted budget.

No flexibility

Enrile said that while reenacted budget would mean less funds for public projects, the government would "see to it that the priorities of the people are not duly addressed."

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya rejected Arroyo's critics, but insisted the President opted not to call for a special session to render the measure deadlock was because a reenacted budget would give her more flexibility to spending.

"On the contrary, it provides us an opportunity to [push] the [2006 General Appropriations Act (GAA)] minus the 2006 budget gives us a higher spending ceilings and a wider menu of programs," Andaya said.

He said budget spending would not allow for deviations from the parameters set forth in the GAA 2005 compliance.

"This would include urgent projects that need to be funded which the law allows us to undertake by tapping fixed resources arising from untimely revenues. This way, all of the priority projects and important programs are not derailed," Andaya said.

But he told Malacañang reassured hopeful that Congress would work on approving the 2006 budget related components July.

GMA benefits

Arguments and the President would benefit from the non-approval of the 2006 budget because she would have the discretion to spend the additional revenues collected in 2006 over that in 2005."

But Sen. Ralph Recto disagreed, saying Malacañang would be "hurt" by a reenacted budget, which is lower by P146 billion than the current proposed outlay and would be delayed until requests for additional funds.

"I don't think Malacañang will be better off with a new reenacted budget. It would be able to realign its funds to a minimal for [new services]," said Recto, who chairs the Senate ways and means committee.

But he was optimistic that the Senate and Malacañang can thresh out their differences, during the compromise bicameral conference committee, even as he urged the President officials to accept amendments to the budget.

Argument for Cha-cha

Senate House legislators say the failure of the budget approval process is the best argument for Charter change.

There will be no budget stalemate because of "obstructionist politics of cross-senators" once the constitutional amendments are in place because the electorate decides on the political leaders will be reelected, said a statement from Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay and House Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Clerey Salapuddin.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia and the Senate's "mangling" of the budget stripped out the heart of the government's anti-poverty program aimed at creating jobs and accelerating rural entrepreneurship.

It was "deplorable" that the Senate "found needless cause arguments that conflicted with" economics, the Speaker said in a statement.

Cops' quick verdict: No 'jueteng' turf war in Pineda blast

Front page ▸

gun police to look into.

Allegations by text

No one was hurt in yesterday's explosion, which occurred at around 4:15 a.m. and was three minutes before the Inquirer reported the Pineda blast.

Text messages received by Reinoso had claimed that yesterday's bombing could be a retaliation against Pineda, whom the text senders alleged was linked to the jueteng operation in Batasan, which destroyed Sanchez's house and killed two of his sons.

"He is not that kind of person," friend Member Lito Pineda told us in a phone interview, referring to his husband.

Low-type bomb

The Pineda compound at Barangay Concepcion in Lubao is among the few Pentecostal-Christian churches in the municipality by a 20-foot concrete fence and a metal gate at the main height.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Supica, Pampanga police director, described the explosion as of "low-level type."

Ordnance experts in Camp Olivas have gathered samples of the bomb residues to determine what type of explosive was used. Reporters were barred from the area requested to be known next week.

'Like a burning tire'

No grenade pin was found at the site, Espino said.

He said investigators had asked Lubao police for the identity or identities of those who threw the explosive. The camera installed at the compound's entrance was not working, he said.

The guard, Mario Dela, went out to check after hearing what sounded to him like a burning tire.

Citing the 100-meter distance between the house and the explosion, Mrs. Pineda said the members of her family "could not possibly be the target but the guard."

She was returning to Lubao, who recently had a quarrel with some cleaning families.

Reporters, himself downplayed the angle of a "jueteng" feud was a motive.

No jueteng in Pampanga

"That's very low, if not the lowest," he said. "Jueteng has never been [in] Pampanga, he said.

Espino also said he was "not taking both, fan and cinder" on the text messages that a certain Reinoso had been called to testify in the Senate's trial.

Espino also dismissed suggestions that the alleged link between the bombing and the plunder trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Two theories

He pointed out that Pineda was campaigning for reinstatement had been called to testify in the Estrada trial.

Like Reinoso, Espino ordered the likely motive to two theories: the campaign against illegal drugs by Pineda and the "jueteng" connection. Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, and a quarrel involving Soho.

DENR's partners' lounge turns into room …

From page A1

could hold meetings, hang out and simply "be at peace while he operates."

However, noted environmentalists scolded not only the middle of the mining moratorium but also the imminent approval of mining which was included in the DENR's 12-point agenda, but were not mentioned in the Kalikasan sa Kalikasan covenant.

The covenant signing was part of the program of the lounge opening.

Speaking before 200 representatives of environmental, religious and indigenous people's groups, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said he built the Kalikasan lounge to symbolize that the DENR "would rather work with, than against environment organizations engaged in environmental protection."

"Space in government offices is critical, but we need a room for our partners. We renovate ourselves, we expand, bring offices over and build more buildings, even sing here," Reyes, a karaoke crooner, told the environmentalists, whom he called "the real bosses."

"Gone are the days when NGOs should be hanging on the gates. We are now open," he said.

The 50-sq m lounge, located on the same floor as the environment secretary's chamber, is fully air-conditioned, has wide and flat, Internet-ready desktop computers.

Causes that unite

Reyes, who vowed to be the champion of environmentalists during his confirmation in February, said if one lauds for the government and NGOs to always be "causes that will unite instead of issues that will divide."

It took only one hour, however, to break the ice-cordial peace and speak down-to-earth issues among the Kalikasan members. This was from No. 6 in the DENR's 12-point agenda which stated: "Revitalize responsible mining through the development of 20 medium and large-scale mining projects, generate $1.10 billion in investments over the next five years."

Rico Galang, dean of the Mariano Gomez Environmental Science Institute and director of Mission PEACE Foundation, raised an objection after Reyes' speech.

He said the DENR had agreed not to include the mining agenda in the Kalikasan 12-point agenda.

He explained that the agency had based their offer a copy of the Kalikasan to Kalikasan covenant—which was supposed to be signed by NGOs and the DENR that day—and mining was nowhere to be seen.

A point of the DENR's 12-point agenda stood outside the lounge while the Kalikasan to Kalikasan covenant was posted on a 2-meter x 2-meter poster-tarp lounge.

"I thought we had agreed not to include mining in the agenda. Why is it there now? Are we implodable in agreement? It seems like we're still at odds," Galang said.

"I think we could be Kalikasan, but it's hard when we're coming from conflicting ideologies. I'm sure it but we can't sign this [covenant]," she said to the others from the Kalikasan and DENR officials.

NGOs who refused to sign the covenant and walked out in a huff were: Haribon, Bilaan PEACE and Bantay Kalikasan.

There were NGOs who gladly signed the covenant and then included: Green Forum, Lakbay Diwa and Rehkalan.

Others like the members of the Dru Wasu Surviving Movement of the Philippines were divided so some members signed, while others walked out.

It's national policy

"There was no intent to destroy. We're not whining. As DENR, we're committed to certain national policies like mining, we cannot go against the national policy," Reyes explained.

He said they would have more discussions in the future.

The DENR has the dual task of preserving the environment and promoting mining as the economic propeller of the Arroyo administration, prompting militant environmentalists to call the agency "schizophrenic."

SC error led to execution of Leo Echegaray

From page A1

motion opposed the death penalty, said however, that the court was bent on extending the "maximum observation" of Echegaray in relation to its "stringent review of death cases" where it "modified" 44.61 percent of sentences to life imprisonment or other lesser penalties."

"That percentage translates to a total of 161 out of 307 appellants saved from lethal injection," he said in a recent speech during the launching of the Free Legal Assistance Group's publication "Legal Reference on Capital Cases."

This was not the case with Echegaray, who was the first of seven to die by lethal injection in 1999, after the court affirmed his death sentence following the passage of the death penalty law.

In June 1996, all 15 Supreme Court justices, including Panganiban, affirmed the Quezon City Regional Trial Court's decision to order out the death sentence to Echegaray.

In January 1999, a motion for a temporary restraining order was filed and was turned down by the justices. Panganiban, in his separate opinion had written: "I maintain my view that RA 7659 (the death penalty law) is unconstitutional insofar as some parts thereof prescribing the capital penalties to comply with the requirements of 'humanism' and 'compelling consensus' as mandated by the Constitution. … But I have repeatedly stated in my dissenting Opinions in various death cases decided by the Court."

Consequently, I cannot now vote to lift the TRO because to do so would mean the unyielding and enforcement of a law I or the other respondents thereof which, I submit with all due respect, is unconstitutional."

Imperfect humans

In a recent speech before the Free Legal Assistance Group, Panganiban reiterated his stand: "I maintain the view that the death penalty has no place in our legal firmament. Indeed, in spite of the meticulous scrutiny that the Supreme Court gives to death cases, it is still possible that an innocent person would be held legally guilty and thereafter judicially executed," he said.

"As humans are imperfect, judges can make wrongful evaluations. A perfectly innocent individual could die by the lawful process, due to mistaken thought and deed that could accompany trials. Once carried out, the death sentence can no longer be reversed or modified. This opinion is not a mere mirage speculation, it is real," he said, citing the Echegaray case.

Survival instinct

"Echegaray's penalty should have been reduced to reclusion perpetua. In People of the Philippines v. Bello, the Court belatedly reduced the penalty to reclusion perpetua, even though the decision inching out death had already become final," he lamented.

"But the case of Echegaray is different. He is in the Court Bureau, and is conscious of the judicial error and no longer innocent him. I believe that the sacred sentence of this case reinforces the death penalty's deterrent effect. The death penalty has no place in our statute books," he said. "After the execution of the appellant … there is no disposition become nightmarishly unbearable."

Since the reimposition of the death penalty in 1993, seven convicts have been executed by lethal injection. Since former President Joseph Estrada's declaration of an 11-month moratorium on executions, in deference to the Catholic Church's jubilee year in 2000, no convict was put to death for the rest of the year.

Review with care

Panganiban said this recommendation policy was contained by President Macapagal-Arroyo who had asked Congress to immediately pass a legislation repealing the Death Penalty Law.

Recently, the Senate and House of Representatives passed the measure seeking the abolition of RA 7659 from the country's statute books.

Panganiban said that although majority of the 15 justices of the high court hold the view that RA 7659 was constitutional, they nonetheless reviewed death cases "with painstaking care," resulting in the downgrading of the sentences of 161 death convicts from "affirm" a remand for further proceedings, or a reduction of the sentence to reclusion perpetua (life imprisonment) or other lesser penalties."

He said in only 230 of the 307 cases reviewed was the death sentence affirmed, while upon automatic review, the court acquitted 65 of those sentenced to death.

He said the court, was also adopting more "error-free" mechanism to ensure that the innocent would not be sent to the death chamber.

IN THE KNOW

LEO ECHEGARAY WAS INJECTED (Thu), injection at Feb. 5, 1999, and he first convict to be executed after the approval of Republic Act No. 7659 or the death penalty law in December 1993.

Echegaray was accused of raping his 41-year-old daughter (or stepdaughter, as the relatives claimed in court) Ruby and her stepsister Sarah Echegaray in their Barrio Obrero, Quezon City, Philippines. The Court, then, was the late Judge Marivic Baucinas, ordered certain death sentence in September.

In June 1998, the Supreme Court affirmed the QC RTC's decision on Echegaray.

All 15 Supreme Court justices, including current Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, concurred with the decision.

Aida Patricia, PDI Research

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Est. 23 Nov. 1985
OPINION

Farewell, death

EDITORIAL

NOW THAT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT HAS BEEN abolished, there are plans to consign the electric chair and the lethal injection chamber to the museum, where they rightly belong. At many sermons—the Church and the media among them—have been arguing, in a country that has achieved a modicum of civilization and enlightenment, there's no place for cruel and inhumane punishments like the death penalty, which exists merely as a relic of a past that was less kind, less humane.

But we must remember that this is the second time the nation has abolished capital punishment. It first got rid of the death penalty in the 1987 Constitution, which was drafted and ratified amid the euphoria of the Edsa revolution, with its yearning of human freedoms and a more tolerant order. Six years later, the penalty was reimposed, amid widespread concerns over a rising crime wave. The penalties by then had swung the other way: from liberality and enlightenment to discipline, control, and even vengefulness. Our leaders may have abolished the death penalty for now, but it is not forbidden to impose their slapping it for different reasons, should the crime situation remains problematic. The kidnapping of businessmen, particularly those of Chinese ancestry, remains an underworld trade. Petty thefts have resulted in homicide, especially since some syndicates have found an easy prey in a population that flaunts the latest mobile phones. Drug trafficking and addiction continue to bedevil society. And spectre of terrorism refuses to go away.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has long feared the death penalty repugnant and insisted on its abolition because it violates her Roman Catholic sensibilities. But even the Church, whose latest catechism practically finds no moral justification for the death penalty, has a tradition of teaching which leaves open the possibility of applying the punishment as a matter of self-defense. It is important that situations or elements that leave open such a possibility must be addressed firstly. There should be no more excuses for the return of the death penalty.

In order to finally close the chapter on the death penalty, it is important that the public take to heart the essence of a human society. A human society finds its truest foundation in life. It behooves therefore the members of society to uphold life and work for its full flowering. In such a context, even criminals must be given the benefit of the doubt. The penal system must allow them to make up for their sins while they are accountabilizing themselves to healthy and responsible members of society. In short, justice must be rehabilitative, not punitive.

Those who argue for the death penalty do so because their vision of penalty is punitive; it harks back to the Old Testament's "eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth" philosophy which we must remember has been superseded by the New Testament's vision of charity and humanity. That justification is outside of the purview of the Church's study rationale for the death penalty—as self-defense.

Perhaps, the only justification that dovetails with the Church's self-defense philosophy is capital punishment as a deterrent to future crimes. Thus, there are calls, for example, of giving the death punishment via military rebels to deter patriots in the future and ensure the government's capacity to defend itself against such possibilities in the future.

But even Nobel economists such as Gary Becker insist that it is certainty of punishment, not the severity of the penalty, that deters crime. That it is the effectiveness of law enforcement and justice administration, not the magnitude of punishment, that instills the fear of God in would-be criminals. And judging from the several coup attempts against the Republic, it appears that the interest officers and soldiers have been emboldened to launch coup after coup has been the lax moves leaders of putschists have been historically treated with.

In 1986, the abolition of the death penalty was prefigured by nature: lightning struck down the electric chamber, reducing it to ashes, making the execution of heaven quite unthinkable. No such preternatural event preceded the abolition of the death penalty for the second time, and it is hoped, the nation won't need another one should the death penalty be revived. Let us pray we have put the death penalty behind us, if only because we seek a fuller realization of life and society and the responsibilities they demand.

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A discarded language

SEPARATE OPINION

Raguiar A. Cruz

WHEN ENGLISH WAS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION in all our public and private schools, it was understood even in the remotest barrios of our country. It served to reinforce communication and end a conflict of our people with their separate customs and dialects in the different regions of the archipelago.

It became the lingua franca that destroyed as a the Tagalog most unintelligible to the rest of the language that was exactly gibberish to other Orientals. All they could do was admire us for speaking like the foreigners from America and England, our lawmaking that we were usually unprepared and the government the strange words necessarily. That's why it was called "Combine English" by some as Philippines somehow.

Only a small minority of our people used English at that time, the rest of the natives relying only on their local idioms and a smattering of Spanish from the old regime in clothing with only other. The few select were the earning who were sent by the government to pursue further studies in the United States and, later, the students from the University of the Philippines, the University of Santo Tomas, the Ateneo University from the South, and other reputable schools. A group of writers led by Jose Garcia Villa developed a noteworthy body of Philippine literature in English that received the admiration and encouragement of their colleagues in America.

In time, even ordinary graduates from our elementary and secondary schools acquired proficiency in the use of English. The promulgation of nationwide education contributed much to the popularity of the language. Even Spanish, which remained the language of the land for hundreds until the late 1950s, began to decline except only among the pala-playing elite in their exclusive enclaves.

With English prescribed by the American administration as the official language, it was now widely used in government instrumentalities and institutions. The Official Gazette was printed, and still is, in English. Our present Constitution is in English although there are editions and copies in Filipino. Marcos's, Cojuangco is said to favor bound his former supporters, Deogracias Fonseca, by forming English letters from the latter.

The new language began to spread even in the everyday life of the Filipinos. Street signs in Spanish were rewritten in English; "no vende" became "no sales," and "no pisar-like flats cannibal" translated to "grass no lie." Flowers were named, enjoyed and neglected, and Pedro became Dan and Conchita who love Chavit People no longer prayed but Maria but Bad Mary catch the same devotion but more secret.

"Out of Tongue" Inspired by a pure sense of nationalism, the new Filipinized government replaced English with the national language as the medium of instruction in all public elementary and secondary schools. Regrettably, the change was accompanied by an edict that students were indicted to take a supplemental and elective subject like French and Spanish.

Shakespeare and Ernest Hemingway became strangers to the general students. The bulacha and pandakan became the substitute for Dickens enough, as our official dialect has known, the Philippines lost its secondrate to the country in Asia most knowledgeable in the use, and manner, of the English language.

It was incomprehensible to many that while other Asian countries realized the need to teach their people the importance of learning English, we in the Philippines have de-emphasized it. We are no longer the best-informed people in our continent about English usage and grammar, much less its beautiful literature.

What we have now is the pidgin vernacular we call Taglish, which is used by everybody including not only the non-age complete, but also the serious-minded scholars and the serious literary purposes alone. That's because it is "eloquent over no cord" of "bahala sarafi." Pedestrial sayings and phrases it like an adopted child with so much legitimacy of the language from which it has developed.

My only remaining wonderment is the use of English in the middle of Filipino movies since those industry began in the early 1960s. The setting is in the boondocks, the characters are simple-opinioned natives. But weight is to the local dialect, but the reaction continues to be in English for the zealous information of the unschooled audience. The conclusion is always The End.

It's like the unconvinced undersecretary in the old "Bank Dolito" parque who was played by a young and very morose closing over is Aurea. Rosa Rosal, who starred in that film, should have instead been driving a modern convertible to a fashion salon in the city, "not on motorcycle."

English has grown to be the most preferred language in the world and is understood in the wilds of Africa as in the high councils of the United Nations. The Pope uses it to do the Emperor of Japan and President Fidel Cuerva in Cuba. Most importantly, popular movies including those made by our own countrymen English subtitles. It's simply amazing that we are entertaining it like a discarded lover while the rest of the world is embracing it.

Is BIR's collection target achievable?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THERE WAS A NEWS REPORT A FEW WEEKS ago that Fitch, the international credit rating agency, wasn't revising upward its assessment of the Philippines. Apparently, there was doubt about the government's ability to improve its fiscal performance. The Fitch representative was quoted as saying that the Philippines had the second lowest "tax effort ratio" among some 90 countries that Fitch monitors.

Just to give the reader a feel for the magnitudes involved: the unweighted average tax-effort ratio for 30 developing countries in the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries) for 2000 was 26.1 percent. Sweden has the highest ratio (38.7 in 2004), Mexico the lowest (16.5), with Korea the second lowest (24.6) and the United States the third lowest (28.4). Closer to home, South Korea's tax effort ratio (2003 data) was 27.6 percent, Thailand's was 16.7 percent, and Vietnam's, 16.4 percent. The Philippines' tax effort ratio for last year (2005) was 12.7 percent.

So what? For 1% in this case, our GDP last year of current prices was about P6.3 trillion, five percent of that is P315 billion. Which means that if the Philippines' tax effort ratio last year were only the same as Vietnam's, we would have collected about P2.56 billion more in taxes. Enough to practically wipe out the national government deficit, as if pre-trade, enough to build the badly needed school rooms and a lot of other infrastructure. This should explain why the tax effort ratios of countries are so closely monitored, and why the Philippines' low ratio is a concern.

A good credibility source appears to be validating the Fitch perspective: BIR Commissioner Jose Buling. He has stated categorically that the Bureau of Internal Revenue will not be able to achieve its targeted collections this year. The target of P475 billion—20 percent higher than last year's—is too high. In complete contrast to his administration superior, Finance Secretary Cary Jesus, is publicly denying it with his on the feasibility of the target.

But too late the plaintiffs. As a result of Buling's pessimism declaration, JP Morgan, a leading investment banking firm, reportedly downgraded Philippine bonds from "overweight" to "neutral," which means it no longer recommends buying those bonds. Who are they, after all, to pursue the BIR commissioner, whose agency accounts for roughly 80 percent of the government's total revenue, that's all—given that everything else remain the same—will mean that the government's deficit targets will not be met.

The negative reaction to Buling's statement may be a manifestation only to underscore the greater transparency in government that is seems to indicate? But by far the more important issue to deliberate is not that we will not reach the BIR's collection targets, but whether the government's targets is a given circumstance.

How was that target arrived at? If memory serves me right (and memory does—it is my business), not any long-term, memory that is prompt. But in part it set by the Department of Finance in consultation with its agencies, taking into account such factors as the projected nominal GDP of the country, the tax buoyancy (the percentage change in tax collections for every percentage change in GDP), additional tax measures, and collection efficiency. These are then presented to the Development Budget Coordinating Committee of the National Economic and Development Authority for review and approval.

What would authors in favor of meeting that target? Aside from the additional non-revenue generated from GDP growth, increases in revenues are also expected from the following: the two percentage point increase in the EVAT; the increase in the corporate income tax rate; the centralizing of the production levels of the products like beer, cigarettes (which took a close look at how supposedly manufacturers had increased their production in the previous year to delay having to pay the additional taxes), and the inclusion of petroleum products among the "VATable" products, cut to taxation; better BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno's legacy of computerization and operation improvements that has made evasion more difficult.

What are the negative factors? Some are out of BIR's control: the products of the Board of Investments is given tax exemption (the growth sectors, such as call centers and software firms are income tax exempt); the possible change in behavior of taxpayers when Bureau rates increase (this is not taken into account).

On the other hand, some be squarely on Buling himself. For one, his public statement that the target is too high is a very strong downward message to his underlings that it is all right not to achieve whatever quotas are classified. Parayno used all his targets. In another, there is his apparent failure to keep up the computerization program started by his predecessor. Parayno's computerization program was designed to close the loopholes in the tax net and make evasion more difficult, and, finally, there is his unexplainable action regarding the Large Taxpayers Unit: he recentered its head of that unit to the very same person who was demoted under Parayno (reportedly because of her "incompetence"). Neither did Buling's immediate predecessor, make any move to reinstate her. The Large Taxpayers Unit is very important: it accounts for over half of the revenues collected by the BIR.

Bottom line? Fitch is right. The BIR collection target is achievable, if the impending shocks can be removed—the largest of which may be the BIR head himself.

Unwanted controversy

COMELEC FILED TO BAR THE 2006 RECKONING when it offended last Thursday evening. While the Commission on Elections will have to open up on a reasoned budget—perhaps until August, next after Congress reopens and gets another chance to act on it. President Macapagal-Arroyo has said that she would veto the budget if it contained provisions to remove the P44 billion from the Senate had cut. The apparently USAID, allies to the House historical conference committee has not yet begun to meet. So they stand to the hard line—all or nothing.

* * *

Senior statesmen said that senior items in the budget would be used by GMA to push Charter change. But what's unreasonable, as Appropriations chair Jerry Salcedo noted, is that the cutoff allocations were for social development projects, meaning, the House ran is bound to cut back on the development projects of the government. Could it be that the senators want this administration to fail?

Here the unemployment seems supposed to use the "Gloc bloc" people which want to get local development projects in the countryside. Fears of "fallen forests" break today minimum should have been adhered by the face that broadcasters fund government units would have to take countryside funding, or they don't get "fair" funds. Hence, SGUs have to exercise a strong sense of responsibility here and since they'll be handling partly state own funds, they're bound to be more careful in how they spend it.

The local executives are more reliant on pandering to the coming 2007 senatorial elections. The more about the budget provides more argument for the adoption of a streamlined legislature.

* * *

It's too bad that political matters were injected into the choice of the last senior Ideal Senate Pro tem at one of the most prestigious Gaudeamus Igitur issued in 2006. On relative house floors, appeared by using on the advice of close supporters of late late landmark, close ed. to accept the nominations after held yesterday at Malacanang. That was an unreasonable given the political tensions that had run between PIA's camp and the President's since the 2004 campaign. What could was the reason that senate Electoral Aetes Edsler Romero, whom his friends say is an impressively disciplined lawyer? He's stated on her behalf, was barred by the Palace from going to become between PIA choice of Ali. The Ideal NCCA Executive Director Leda Romero to take her June 6 declaration in writing that the facts are upon rewrite, addressed to Senate Alaan-Sen, a close PIA associate. Cayetano assured that "no one is misbehaving had and the matters could not accept the award if he was not well authorized by the Senate, especially by Senate Pimentel." Cayetano said that what is told the press was not "emphatically and by no means a violation of protocol," the text of his received, the award for posthumous awardees. However, she said, "if the family indicates that it has no interest in a representative, we would not quarrel over it."

* * *

What's not appreciated in the controversies over that PIA was selected by his peers, not by the NCCA, and nominated by two legislative Senators and Members Bond. That was unlike the case of Manolo sculptor, painter and writer Abdulmari Imao, who was inducted upon the suggestion of other panelists for literature appointed by seven groups, known as the Ilk of Manolo, given the title of national artist. In 1997 Focus, two prominent unpaid for him before two separate nominating bodies: Bonsai before a body of national artists and Bond before the Board of the joint boards of the Cultural Center and the NCCA. PIA garnered the maximum citation votes required, unlike the late composer George Canseco and stage actress Nini Crisolo Rogers who failed to get the magic number.

* * *

Speaking of artists, one of the outstanding events of the Philippine Centennial Presidential Festival Festival Institute World Congress here was Steve Stubbs, a successful American folk singer and songwriter, he has always sings to his tables, including Filipino restaurant in "Cohen Mist Waltz" and "Don't Laugh at Me," the winner of the Nashville Songwriters Association International "Song of the Year" and Music Row Magazine "Song of the Year" in 2000. As the opening of the Harvest Congress, Stubbs sang "Cohen Mist Waltz" accompanying himself on the piano. Continue his song, published by Penn, Bird and Music became an anthem for the "Operation Respect Don't Laugh at Me" project, a nationwide campaign to reduce bullying in schools. This project has already been implemented in more than 20,000 schools across the United States, and Stubbs continues to perform in school assemblies in his spare.

I thought to ask him about his debut, where people also laugh on the television and Buddhism include inside, especially among schoolchildren, it might be timely to remind how the lyrics of Stubbs' song, it sounds as, more of "Sunday Bloody Sunday" than "Kumbaya."

Here's Stubbs' performance blends this only:

I'm a little boy with glasses
The one they call a geek.
A little girl who never smiles
'Cause I've got braces and an arch."
And I know how it feels
To cry myself to sleep,
I'm that kid on every playground
Who's always picked last.
I'm the one who's down
Then she when in my class.
You don't have to be a friend,
But can you reach out?
Don't laugh at me, don't call me names,
Don't get your pleasure from my pain.
In God's eyes, we're all the same,
Someday you'll be glad I'm not to blame.
Don't laugh at me.
I'm the bigger on the corner.
You're passed me on the street.
And I remember I was never hugging
If I had enough to eat.
Don't think I don't notice that one way over
me.

I was never a little different,
I do my dreams' from dot clash
I pretend it doesn't hurt me
when people point and stare.
There's a simple way of showing
Just how much you care.
Please don't laugh at me.
I'm fat, I'm thin.
I'm short, I'm tall.
I'm dark, I'm blind.
Hey, aren't we all?

Migration patterns of the wildebeest

THE "RENACIMIENTO SEASON" HAS RETURNED TO OUR company. Five of my fellow software engineers have resigned, four of them planning to go abroad. A high turnover rate seems to be a natural characteristic of the IT industry.

It's to imbibe the old days when employees used to stick to only one or two employers in their entire lives. What, they revise, they would typically have already spent 10 to 20 years of their lives working for one and the same company.

Our software development space these days, they say that the longest you should stay in a company should be one, maybe, two years at most. This practice makes for a very enriching experience, as it supports you to

Young Blood

Kenneth Raymond Diaz

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome your contributions from the twenty-something attribute. —Ed.

different projects where you can apply your expertise, and expand your work horizons in the process. I myself expect one more months in my line job, before moving to my current one.

The previous "resignation season" struck about the same time a year ago. His some of those who resigned left the country. Some went to work for IT firms in Manila, while others stayed here to Cebu to work for other companies. It's sad to lose talented to other companies, but it's unlikely to lose talent to other countries.

This is not to judge or condemn fellow colleagues who decide to work abroad. I myself might be following in their footsteps someday. This is there really no more hope for the country than the middle class and the professionals are all wanting to get the hell out of here? It's not like they're really desperate families of means, who have no other option but to work abroad because they can't find a job here, otherwise they're not really desperate. They're middle class and even software developers who I think have pretty decent salaries. They more certainly won't starve with their talents. Yes, they may be a bit hard put to pay say, the mortgage for that house or car while maintaining a comfortable lifestyle, but I think the country really needs them at this point.

Imagine this. If all the doctors were to leave the country, who would attend to the sick? If all the nurses left, who would be there to care for the patients? If all the teachers left, who would teach our children? If all the software engineers and programmers left, who would be there to develop the computer systems which have become critical to the efficient operations of business and government and, for that matter, to our country's development? If all the software engineers and programmers left, what would be the point of foreign firms investing and outsourcing their IT needs here, and there are no software engineers and math-inclined to outsource all some our nation to escape?

This is not to mention the social costs of going abroad—the families that are going to raise the little band, and raising love of the fathers and mothers who are supposed to.

One of my officemates when going abroad is himself a citizen. I'm pretty sure he has thought long and hard about his decision. For it means leaving behind a daughter who is currently in her age of adolescence, it must have been a painful decision for him, a decision that I certainly wouldn't want to be forced to make in the coming years when I myself have a family of my own.

But this is not to say that all who are going abroad are leaving purely for the allure of money. They may be going there for personal reasons: I may never know and indeed would. Maybe, they just want a new life abroad, away from the pains, problems and heartaches that come with their own town. Maybe, they just want to see new places and learn new things.

All those who emigrate are older than his 30s, maybe, they have more responsibilities in life than give-immature-twenty-somethings do. Maybe, they're not as young as my colleagues—the ones filled, Mabuhi ito! Hihi and the ones headed—were abroad with the thought and goal of building our mother land a better place.

But I also understand that it's very hard to work on a remote for a country that doesn't seem to work for you. Here we all are subjected to the daily grind of traffic, of not knowing the law and passing our taxes correctly, and what do we get in return? A corrupt system that doesn't even work for us but only for those who are in power, major constitutional politicians who don't respect the most sanctified right of a people: to a decent, safe and secure life. Here we all are subject to people we hold on to power just because the believe she is the only viable leader for our country, and he presents himself as her counterpoint with the intimation that they are a means-tested bachelorette similar to power hemorrhoids.

But I also believe above all that, can't there a Gipper remedy for us to stay? So that we can help one to fix the system? So that we can fight the entrenched power that for so long has imposed itself on our society? So that we can help make the Philippines more attractive to foreign investments by simply staying here and giving the best we have to offer to our place?

Or do we have to be subjected to the daily grind of traffic, and only make it nine things are back on the right track?

These questions remind me of the great migration of the wildebeest in the plains of the Serengeti in Africa. The wildebeest are notoriously on the move, seeking places where the grass is greener. Because they're always on the move, always with a journey, they know it more to regenerate on its own.

Are we destined to be like the wildebeest? Are we destined to become nomads, a people without a land we can call home? Will the Philippines, with this kind of mindset, will make a decade or two forgotten?

There is a certain irony here between heroes and wildebeest. Even though heroes leave their country they never back turned with my wisdom and experience gained from their journeys abroad. Such items, they try to fix or improve their country's state of affairs.

But why can't it really be as simple? Why can't we devise the direction of her Filipino climate to take for themselves? Why can't we demand heroism from them? Maybe, I am just being young and foolish. Maybe, a few more years from now, I will learn that idealism is overrated, that idealism will survive in a dog-eat-dog world such as ours. Maybe, a few more years from now, I myself might be known more as a wildebeest than as a hero and decide to leave as well. But right now, I have hope so God I won't eat my words. And I also hope that you guys come back.

Kenneth Raymond Diaz, 25, is a software developer for Big Dot Global Solutions in Cebu City.

Remembering the disappeared

At Large

Dona Pazzanese-Davis

THE HORRIFIC TORMENT ENDURED BY THE VICTIMS of involuntary disappearance as a form of human rights violation touched its peak during the martial law regime. After the restoration of democracy, however, the problem continued unabated. Peace Studies scholars, even with the lifting of martial law and after the Edsa "People Power" revolt, "the level of grave human rights violations remained high." Four human rights groups—Karapatan, Desaparecidos, Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance, an NGO composed of relatives of disappearees (disappeared people), a group that runs a safe house for internally displaced people in the Visayas and Mindanao—say in the 1990s when military fighters were the norm in Latin America and even countries were "not only tolerating grave military abuses but actively condoned and covered and never heard from again.

While "the incidence of involuntary disappearance as a form of human rights violation touched its peak during the martial law regime," 1,940 secretary-general Raquel Pons-Bunyi ratified, even with the lifting of martial law and after the Edsa "People Power" revolt, "the level of grave human rights violations remained high." Four human rights groups—Karapatan, Desaparecidos, Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance, an NGO composed of relatives of disappearees (disappeared people), a group that runs a safe house for internally displaced people in the Visayas and Mindanao—say in the 1990s when military fighters were the norm in Latin America and even countries were "not only tolerating grave military abuses but actively condoned and covered and never heard from again.

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Coverage." It is published [with funding from the French Embassy] by FIND at the Faculties of Civil Law

Give Dale Abenojar benefit of doubt

LETTERS

EDITOR OF REQUIRING DALE ABENOJAR (pertaining to question his claim that he reached the summit of Mt. Everest), Leo Dominic and Bulacan Estate should have given him the benefit of the doubt.

Do those two guys think they have a monopoly of the indomitable spirit that pushed them to conquer Mt. Everest? They should have kept quiet and let Abenojar prove his claim. Or are they afraid to lose the distinction of being the first two Filipinos to have reached the peak of Mt. Everest?

I have always been an avid fan of Mt. Everest climbers and I have followed their expeditions to the limit, not to the point where, if indeed Abenojar's climb to the top was successful, then he deserves genuine admiration for having taken the more difficult and risk-laden North route quietly, without fanfare and publicity; at least, he can lay claim to be the first Filipino to have climbed Mt. Everest via the death-defying North route amidst more climbers here.

—CESAR M. DE LOS REYES,
cesdlreyes@philwebinsure.com.ph

A call to vigilance

ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF freedom. This is not only true in war but in all situations and on all people. The economic formula included. They should not let us their hearts for losing was the one on their ownership of the once-lowy funds before the Supreme Court until the Sandiganbayan.

The high court declared on Dec. 14, 2000: "No room[for misunderstanding, and confusing, the PCGG will even be more categorical and positive than its earlier pronouncements[the once-lowy funds are not only affected with public interest, they are in fact prima facie public funds."

The Sandiganbayan, showing the motion for reconsideration filed by Cojuangco et al., ruled: "It is high time that the real beneficiaries of the once-lowy fund, the innocent farmers who contributed to it, and the entire account industry be given the chance to reap the benefits that are due them."

All citizens share in the once-lowy levy funds. In their entirety belong to the coconut farmers. Hence not a single cent of it should be subject to compromise.

Unfortunately, not all of the funds have been recovered by the government. Twenty percent of the Mirant shares remain under the subject of litigation between Cojuangco and the coconut farmers through the PCGG. What the farmers wants is a compromise that would allow him to keep the 20 percent for himself and his allies. This is often the farmers should be wary about how the amount, roughly P53 billion, slip from their hands and go to the pockets of business.

Ironically a group, led by PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio and Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, is strongly endorsing the compromise. We find it strange and suspicious that the PCGG chair himself is now the very person bargaining for a compromise with the respondents. This is clearly highly irrational. Sabio deserves to be booted out from the PCGG. And what can we say of Archbishop Capalla? A high-ranking cleric belonging to a pro-poor Church?

Sooner or not in a position to compromise. The remains of the Marcos regime caused poor coconut farmers—who could barely eke out a living due to the usually depressed prices of copra—untold suffering. For this reason, I call upon all coconut farmers to oppose resolutely Sabio and Archbishop Capalla's proposed compromise. An SOS—Multisectoral Task Force on the Full Recovery of the Coconut Levy Funds (MUTF) is therefore forthcoming from the concerned farmers to sign, if only to show their opposition to the planned compromise agreement. I also call upon PCGG to see to it that the PCGG will perform what it is commissioned to do: recover the ill-gotten wealth of Marcos and his cronies.

Fellow coconut farmers, your signatures will certainly send a strong signal to the Sandiganbayan that the oppressed poor will no longer tolerate their being further duped and cheated by the economic colossuses of yesteryear.

—ROLIO CALAPIP,
Manila City, Southeast Asylo

Kudos to media defending press freedom

THE CONVICTION AND IMPRISONMENT of the prestige broadcast Rights International to one as "broke" have sanctioned many lives, not only of four fellow Filipino press freedom since of many members, who like blindly are losing their children to become the "Children of the future." "[Sic] leaves mother to be [died of our times," PEN.3/14/06].

I would like to commend these lawyers for bringing out such stories that never fail to inspire and arouse their readers to [e activist. Despite the threats and the hardships from government officials like justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, these journalists continues to feature stories on the political killings and have chosen to remain on the side of the people and the truth.

This praise goes out as well to other media workers who are more vowed by those who are out to suppress the freedoms of the press.

In the face of the rampant killings of journalists and militants, may the defenders of truth in the press and in justice' organizations struggle on. As for the youth, their inspiring story of Ka-Bo ought to serve as an inspiration for them to carry on with the struggle for justice, freedom and genuine peace for which Kabo and many others like him have died for. Their noble lives shall not have been sacrificed in vain.

—RAY VARGAS,
mayvargas@yahoo.com

ONE of SM malls in Metro Manila.

SM's pro-family decision

IN FEB MAY 23 COLUMN, JULIUSA CLEMENTE Ocampo pointed out how logical is the SM policy of not showing "The Da Vinci Code" in SM theaters. (PDI, 5/23/06)

Indeed, barring the Shaw[Inc]ement in SM is not compatible with the showing of the film. The refusal not to show the film in SM theaters may not be good business sense but it is the right decision.

That decision has prompted me and my family to continue patronizing SM, and I still encourage all my friends to do the same. We will support SM all the way! It shows SM is not only concerned with profit but is thinking of the good of the family. This is a good shift because a good family makes a better and prosperous society.

We are on the right track with SM lead[ing] the way. Brave and admirable. This is clearly how a man should live his faith in this profit-oriented society.

—MICHEL B. BULLA,
204 Old Carmona Rd., Barangay Fatin,
Calamba City, Laguna 4027

Bulatao victim of perverted presidency

I AM GRATEFUL THAT COLUMNIST Cirse P. Sotto wrote about the injustice done to Sally Bulatao (PDI, 5/11/06), who quietly, most honestly, most perseveringly and most effectively headed the National Unity Authority for over four years.

Malacañang's dismissal of Bulatao for corruption was a travesty of justice. But the loss is the government's, not the latter's. She had proven that she has the competence, social consciousness, integrity and outreach to help NEA perform at a level that could earn the respect of the farmers it is intended to serve. Bulatao is one precious, if rare, gem.

To dismiss her on corruption charges only shows how incredibly perverted the Office of the President has become under Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Nations remains a servant of the people, and no one—least of all, a fake president—can take that reputation away from her.

—MARIA TERESA DIOKNO-PASCAL,
Institute for Popular Democracy,
43 Maitimdiman St.,
Teachers' Village, Quezon City

The Baguio of our memories

READING THE GROSS-COUNTRY STORY, titled "8,000 km cross country in 22 days on a motorbike," of Rissa Peeler Pedestrian (PDI, 5/16/06) reminded me that the Baguio City I once loved is gone forever. Roberto said that Baguio is to present state is "a mockery of a dishonored beauty queen of the mountains turned whore." Indeed, everywhere you look in Baguio today, you wouldn't see any more trees. They have been replaced by roadtops, shanties, stinkwells and pubs.

In the late 70s, when I was in high school, I used my classmates used to walk from our school to the downtown area. We would feel the cold breeze and we would encounter more horses than cars. It was like you were on the mountainside of North America.

Whatever happened to the once breathtaking view of the most beautiful mountain city in the Philippines? I won't be surprised if one day, our government will change the country's summer capital. That is, if we still survived against that has not been reached by illegal loggers who call themselves "developers."

Can we not preserve the trees like rich nations do? In Sidemabin, Florida, for example, a big chain store wanted to build an outlet on a lot where a 220-year-old oak tree stood. Rather than cutting it down, the store owner transplanted it to took the store six weeks and $100,000 to relive the transplant. (National Geographic, April 2006).

Maybe, this is easier said than done. But there are other ways to save trees and maximize clean air. If we don't start preserving our[their nature now, when? And if not us, who?

—BRITE BELLOSURIO,
San Fernando City, La Union,
[illegible]@[illegible].com

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Across the NATION

Church leads war on STL in Negros

By Carlo R. Gomez and Felipe V. Calixo
INQ Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE DIOCESE of Bacolod is launching a campaign against the entry of Small Town Lottery (STL) in the town and cities of Negros Occidental, Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarro said yesterday.

Navarro revealed the plan of the Church after Manuel Escalante, Negros Occidental Provincial Board member, led Tuesday said that majority of the 32 lawmakers in Negros Occidental will allow STL into their towns and cities and see no use to pass a resolution now much talking flesh dead.

Only five mayors —Silvino Gaudiano of Sipalay City, Leonardo Bacosa of Himamaylan City, Juan Tiatco of Talisay City and Ricardo Perdiguero of Valladolid— are opposing the entry of STL in their towns.

Navarro said he advised the five mayors to have faith and hoped they never to succumb to other sources.

He said the mayors who favored STL should weigh the monetary advantages over the moral disadvantages that the STL-operated games will create by bringing gambling to the towns and cities of Negros Occidental.

"STL will distract the values of the people who, instead of relying on work, will pin their hopes on gambling," Navarro added.

In Bacolod City, the Christian Family Movement in Cebu also strongly opposed the entry of STL.

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DREAM BOATS
Two boys get their paper boats into an open canal in Tondo District in Quezon City, taking advantage of a talks school work is going.

Roundup

3 NPA rebels slain

DAVAO CITY—Two New Peoples Army (NPA) rebels were killed and several other rebels wounded during an encounter with government forces in Talaingod, Davao del Norte yesterday morning, the military said. Maj. Jose Cerezo, military spokesperson for the Southern Mindanao, said two other rebels were captured. The soldiers, he said, also recovered several firearms, ammunition and government troops were pursuing a remote village in Talaingod where they cleared out an undetermined number of NPA rebels around 9 a.m.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Earthquake drill

COTABATO CITY—The Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) will hold an earthquake drill in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) next week. OCD director Lito Monico said the drill will kick-off the nationwide earthquake preparedness. Several ARMM areas have experienced deadly quakes in the past so far, including the 1976 tremor that killed hundreds of people in Cotabato and Maguindanao provinces. Regional disaster coordinating council chief ARMM Dev. Zaldy Ampatuan also directed public works regional secretary Yusof Alagi to check school buildings and other government infrastructure to make sure these could withstand strong quakes.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Principal shot dead

MAPANDAN, Pangasinan—An elementary school principal was shot dead by two motorcycle-riding men on Wednesday while she was on her way home to Golden Village here, police said. Susan Lubo Moreno, 57, principal of Golden Elementary School, was another teacher had just attended an alumni a class in another village school when the attack happened. Police said the suspects shot Moreno from behind, killing her twice in the head. She died before reaching the Mapandan Community Hospital. Moreno's companion was unhurt.

Yolanda Cobio-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Community coffee talks

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—To build Mindoro Bishop Martin Gutierrez of Social media a grassroots level for coverage. Said in, the maintenance of the monthly Provincial Data Council to come to the municipal, barangay and neighborhood levels. It is a venue for people to voice issues, which would be addressed to concerned agencies, he said. The focus will also go to the media only for positive and not controversial stories. Said the bishop, as he encouraged the media to also cover people who are doing good for the community.

Marianne Evoda, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Gang kills 2 youngsters

LUCENA CITY—Two persons, including a third year nursing student, were gunned down by a teenage gang in Barangay Ibabang Dupay here past midnight Tuesday. A police report identified the victims as Rolando Lat, 20, and Joel Pabilla, 21, a nursing student, both residents of Purok Riverside in the village. Lat suffered a single gunshot wound in the head while Pabilla was fatally hit in the left side of the body. Both were declared dead on arrival in a hospital. Two of the suspects identified as Michael Posadas and Rhon Bell were arrested by police after a brief chase. Two other suspects identified as Jessie Morales and one alias "Ito Ito" escaped and are now being hunted.

Carlo Medina Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Benguet town gets tough on chemical firms

BUGUIAS, BENGUET—ZOMBIE AND GET BACK your containers.

This message for chemical companies stores if no officials of the town, the province's capitals capital, who had decided to rid their farms and rivers of untreated empty chemical containers.

The town council recently passed an ordinance that required chemical companies to retrieve their emptied containers or face fines and imprisonment.

The measure, which was approved on June 6, is considered as the first in Benguet as the town is doubling its time to comply with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (Republic Act No. 9003).

The law required all local government units to complete this year their own solid waste management program such as waste segregation, materials recovery facilities, controlled dumps and sanitary landfills.

Councilors Jessie Calwag and Vicente Bitoguen, authors of the ordinance, said the ban came one approved following findings that the spillage from emptied chemical containers had become a major source of contamination of the town's rivers, including potable-water sources.

They said the emptied containers appeared for sale in other Cities contaminated brand used.

"But these containers can still spill toxic chemicals that will be harmful to the environment particularly when they are just thrown around," they said.

The town's population of more than 40,000, mostly farmers, had become a profitable market for these containers, Zeñaida H. Cruz, town council secretary, said.

Market

Farmers here buy pesticides, insecticides, fungicides and "weedicides," which come in the form of bottles, boxes, plastics, bags and other packages, for their farms.

Vicente and Go farmers that the council was prompted to pass the ordinance after a study conducted by St. Louis University in Baguio City and Benguet State University in La Trinidad town revealed alarming findings.

The study, completed in 2005 under the Philippine-Canada community cooperation program, confirmed the containers as a potential sources of water and river pollution in the town.

Last year, BSU soil experts also alerted town officials on the growing acidity of the town's vegetable farms due to excessive application of chemical inputs, primarily fertilizer.

"The chemicals used had drastically reduced the farms' fertility," Dr. Carlito Lucas, an BSU soil scientist of research, said.

The ordinance asked to retrieve the containers from stores designated by the barangays as collection centers. Failure to do so would make the erring establishments liable for fines or imprisonment or both.

Delmar Cecilio, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, 1309

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

The GSIS, thru its ACQUIRED ASSETS EVALUATION COMMITTEE (AAEC), shall be accepting offers for the following properties:

1. Former GSIS Makati Office
   Location: Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City
   TCT Nos. N – 186518, N – 186519, N – 186520
   Land Area: 2,429sqm.
   Improvements: 7 storey bldg. w/ roof deck
   Proposal Type: Long Term Lease

2. GSIS Quezon City Property
   Location: Elliptical Road, Quezon City
   TCT Nos. N-187208, N-187207
   Land Area: 23, 944 Sqm.
   Proposal Type: Long Term Lease

Interested parties may submit their proposals to the Disposition of Acquired Assets Department, 5th floor, Core C, GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Pasay City on or before July 14, 2006.

All proposals shall be evaluated by the AAEC and shall be subject to the final approval of the President and General Manager and/or BOARD OF TRUSTEES. GSIS reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals.

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MILF ancestral domain claim gets complicated

PAGADIAN CITY—AT LEAST 26 Subanen datus oppose the inclusion of the Zamboanga peninsula and some parts of Misamis Occidental in the proposed Bangsamoro entity.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), claiming the region as part of its ancestral domain, wrote the provision in the entity under a peace settlement with the government.

On Thursday, the Subanen leaders rejected the proposed inclusion of their ulayat (ancestral domain) during a tribal meeting here.

The Subanen leaders said their territories were never part of the Moro ancestral domain.

Timuay Fernando Medar, head of the Pigcalabuban Ilomo Subanon (Confederacy of Subanen Peoples), said Apo Ideal made a pact with Bloodlust Datungcanan, a Moro chieftain, over the delineation of territories of Subanon and the Moro in Mindanao.

Medar said that Kabungsuan and Ideal entered into a pact that led to the division of Mindanao into four territories. Moro territories fell under the auspices of Kabungsuan and Subanen territories were under the control of Ideal.

But the Subanen leaders quickly said they were not opposed to the establishment of a future entity for the Moro people.

Timuay Jegao Magdes, a Subanen leader from Zamboanga Sibugay, said the MILF should respect the ancestral domain claims of other groups.

"We all need to respect each other," said dimapatay Abdulrahman Abdullah, a leader of the Subugalalan ang Kalibugan ang Sewasa (Sewasa Kalibugan Council of Elders in Zamboanga del Norte).

"The government must take into consideration all issues including the ancestral domain claims of other groups if they want genuine peace," he said.

Abdullah, a Kalibugan who embraced Islam, said the government must be careful in granting the MILF its claim of ancestral domain.

"They (government negotiators) should assess every claim of the MILF before they enter into a peace deal because it might lead to another problem. They should not create another problem if they want to end a problem," he said.

The Subanen leaders also said they would establish contacts with the MILF peace panel to address any potential problem arising from the ethnolinguist's ancestral domain claim.

"We will request a dialogue with them and discuss with them our position on ancestral domain claim. (Hopefully, a communication linkage with them will open a positive outcome (sic)," Medar said.

Ancestral domain remains to be the most difficult issue in the peace talks between the government and the MILF.

Government negotiators expressed optimism a deal would be signed by September, but rebel leaders said they were cautious about signing a deal this year because the year ends in the rainy season.

Previous agreements such as Moro groups that were entrusted into during years that ended in the number 0 were failures, said the rebel leaders. —Rita Baul Sarvayya, PDI Mindanao Bureau

OUT OF FLAGS
A boy walks on busy Calle Real Street in Iloilo City where replicas of the Philippine flag are being sold. The sale of the flags has not picked up despite the coming celebration of Independence Day on June 12. The government has resorted to requiring offices to display Philippine flags to stir interest in the carnival of Philippine independence.

Pampanga asks firm to pay taxes for hauling sand

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO— THE Pampanga government has given a Japanese company until Friday to show proof why it should not be made to pay taxes for the sand it is using in filling materials for portions of the 9.2-kilometer Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) in the province.

The Fujima Corp. would be compelled to show a copy of the contract stipulating it was entitled to tax exemptions, provincial administrator Fidel Jerome told legislators investigating alleged anomalies in quarry tax collections.

At the resumption of the hearings on Tuesday, Jerome said Fujima also hired a state and district police if it fails to furnish the provincial government a copy of the contract.

The firm was first issued a "notice of failure to pay collection letter" on May 25, he said.

The Pampanga government is questioning the use of sand obtained during "cut and fill" processes in Floridablanca and Bamban towns. The mineral is gathered when earth-moving equipment cut through hills or fields along the project's right-of-way. The supply is then piled to form the new road.

"(Fujima) said it merely transferred the materials. We said they actually hauled the materials by the road and so they must pay," Jerome told the House of Representatives' committee on good government chaired by Bulacan Rep. Amihan Defensor.

Jerome said he and a Fujima representative, during a meeting last week, have not yet discussed the amount of taxes due the provincial government.

The company worked on a 21-km segment of the expressway's first phase. The remaining 19 km in this phase on the Bataan side is being done by Hanjin Corp. The road, funded with a loan from the Japanese government, covers a total length of 57 km.

Like other principal contractors, Fujima bore in filling stock from a local basalt rock quarry in the mid-town.

Overall, the project uses minerals to spend a total of P2.3 billion on filling materials alone, a copy of a SCTEX bill of quantities furnished by Vice Gov. Jennifer Cuneo showed.

Dimpampo charges a tax of P300 per truckload of high grade basalt rock, P100 for low grade sand, he was told.

The project's need for at least 3.1 million cubic meters of sand (equivalent to 310,334 truckloads) could earn for Pampanga at least P80 million, Cuneo said. —Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Search for greener pastures emptying schools in Cordillera

BAGUIO CITY—SOLICITOR CITY-side here said the migration of families looking for better economic opportunities outside the Cordillera is a major factor in a decline in enrollment figures in public elementary and high schools in the region.

Benito Tamayao, Department of Education director in the Cordillera, said discussions during a recent conference attended by teachers in the region showed that migration has skewed enrollment figures as many families have chosen to relocate and leave the region.

Records of the Cordillera showed that enrollment in public elementary schools in the region dropped to 214,321 in 2005 from 218,703 in 2004. The number further dropped to 209,122 for school year 2005-2006.

Tamayao said some parents and teachers have cited poverty as a major factor their children are leaving school. Some teachers also noted that some children leave school as they are forced to work to augment their families' income while some children are abused and maltreated and lose interest in attending school.

Although public elementary and high school education are free, Tamayao said the dropout rate in the elementary level in the Cordillera is 7 percent. The dropout rate in public high schools in the region is 12 to 13 percent, he said.

Parents and students, during a recent forum sponsored by the National Union of Students of the Philippines, said the high cost of education has forced students to make a living instead of going to school.

Norma Mora, a farmer and a mother of eight, said she could not send all her children to school because she could not afford to buy her children school supplies.

Mina, a resident of Baguio, Benguet, said she even asked one of her children to stop pursuing college this year because they do not have money.

"We may have our own land to till but the income is not enough to send my children to school. We also have to think about the money (to buy) food. The cost of farming inputs are too much of our budget, and volunteers to left from the state [of our harvest] I would be allowed for food," she said.

Tamayao said Cordillera has a "manageable" student population, with an average ratio of 35 students to a teacher.

He said the region also has an adequate supply of english, armor and math textbooks for elementary students.

In Bangalisan, a five hog and some school supplies for all elementary and high school students in Bamoday town helped increase enrollment this school year, said Mayor Simplicio Rosario.

Rosario said the town government launched the project because many students are poor that parents could not send their children to school.

"I want to lessen the illiteracy rate in my town. I hope all children will finish high school," he said.

The town has about 15,000 youth enrolled in public schools and each of them benefited from the program.

Rosario said he started helping public school students by paying for their test papers, which cost P10 every periodic examination.

Dodjie Cohen and Rolando Ranche Ramos, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CHILDREN at a Baguio school queue for lunch, also a commonplace hard to find in many public school classrooms in the country.

Baguio code drives women to come out against abuses

BAGUIO CITY—HERE WOMEN ARE GIVING an active open to report domestic violence following the implementation of the city's gender equality and development (GED) code, officials said.

In a meeting with Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland here last week, Artemia Asis, city social welfare officer, said since the code implementation last year, more women, especially in the villages, have been open about their experiences of domestic violence.

"We noticed that many women in the barangays went passive before the passage of the code. Now a lot of women are coming out to say their feelings regarding their abuse," Asis said.

Monroe Eschauzier, a retired teacher, said residents have become more aware of the rights of women and children.

The city underlined by barangay officials and representatives of women's groups during a meeting with officials of the Canadian government that funded an advocacy campaign on the GED code, considered a landmark ordinance here.

In 2003, the city government recorded 139 cases of violence against women. The cases ranged from battery, sexual abuse to rape.

From January to April this year, the city government registered 90 cases of abuse and violence against women. Most of these cases happened to married women mostly belonging to low income families, Asis said. She said the reported cases were all brought to barangay councils.

Section 51 of the code stipulates that there should be barangay lupon tasked to mediate in cases of violence against women and children.

It further requires all department heads of the city government, including the barangay councils, to act within 24 hours on complaints or cases.

Asis said since the code implementation, more women in the barangays have been coming to know about it. "Now the policemen were eager to know more about GED," she added.

Records showed that officials from 129 of 129 barangays here have been trained by the city social welfare development office in how to do the cases. Dodjie Cohen, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WHILE women's groups are pushing for a stop to abuses, a woman vendor goes about her daily routine in a street in Baguio City.

INQUIRER Visayas

Aklan prof produces seedless rambutan

By Hazel P. Villa
Kalibo, Aklan

IF THERE ARE SEEDLESS grapes, can seedless rambutan be far behind?

If Aklan State University (ASU) has its way, it would like to see its rambutan counterpart to the popularseedless grapes and join the fruit from Sirao Hill in the pantheon of best-loved fruits.

This, after one of ASU's professors-researchers, Dr. Marlon Romaquin, "seedless Cully" came up with sweet, seedless rambutan in September 2003 while experimenting on the effect of Gibberellic acid on the yield and quality of rambutan fruits as harvest for his doctoral dissertation.

Gibberelic Acid is a plant growth regulator that induces seedlessness in fruits like grapes and is often used for commercial fruit crop production.

Romaquin, 40, confessed he has research in November 2001 in the hope of helping rambutan fruit growers in Batan come up with higher yields since majority of their produce goes to Manila and Boracay island during its season from July to September.

"I was doing a Manila until since I couldn't understand where the study was going. I was also wondering how to get data for developed seeds when there was no seeds to speak of, not realizing that I have come up with seedless rambutan," said Romaquin, who is married and with one daughter.

DR. MARLYN Romaquin, professor/researcher at the Aklan State University, carries rambutan trees with Gibberelic Acid, a plant growth regulator that produces seedless rambutan fruits.

PHOTO BY HAZEL VILLA

Eureka moment

With that eureka moment, Romaquin changed his original study of experimenting on the effect of Gibberelic acid on the yield and quality of rambutan fruits into one where she could establish the proper concentration and time of application of the acid that could induce seedlessness and whether this would change the appearance and quality of the rambutan.

Romaquin's rambutan research was of particular importance to her because its success meant earning a doctorate degree in crop science, major in horticulture, from the Central Luzon State University in the Science City of Muñoz Esija.

By September 2005, Romaquin's research yielded mark seedless and seedless rambutan fruit with reduced length and rambutan fruit bore that bore outer clusters of the coat but covered with fleshy pliable arils.

A BOWL of seedless rambutan prepared by Dr. Romaquin.

The evergreen rambutan-tropical tree native to the Malay archipelago normally produces bear prominent clusters of 10-20 fruits together.

There were more than 100 fruits, according to Romaquin, the Gibberelic Acid enlarged and elongated the rolls that make up the rambutan's soft or fleshy part and the seeds that was supposed to go by the seed were ignored to the soft, making the fruit seedless.

For her experiment, Romaquin used nine 4-years-old seemingly propagated rambutan trees of the Maharlika variety that had "uniform vigor, height and canopy."

The Rambutan

THE TERM rambutan is derived from the Malay word "hair," which describes the numerous long, soft, reddish green-colored spines that covers the entire fruit (save for the surface of the part). The primary of this African fruit-shaped fruit can be red, orange, pink, or yellow in color and is surrounded by a fruit of the husks. The edible, juicy flesh is translucent, sweet and subacid. Rambutan is also considered a medicinal plant. Its leaves and root decoction is used to help treat diarrhea, and its fruit is used to treat fever. The pericarp of rambutan contains tannin and saponin and is often exported industrially to extract its tannin. The seeds are used as a source for fattening cows. Rambutan is also prized for its ornamental value.

CULTIVATION IN THE PHILIPPINES IS CONCENTRATED IN THE PROVINCES OF BATANGAS, LAGUNA, CAVITE, QUEZON, ZAMBALES, PAMPANGA, BULACAN, CAMARINES SUR, ALBAY, LEYTE, SURIGAO DEL NORTE, DAVAO DEL NORTE, AGUSAN DEL NORTE AND BUKIDNON.

Three groups of the said rambutan trees were then applied with different concentrations of Gibberelic Acid at different times. Before bud break, before full bloom and when the fruit is set.

Romaquin explained that seedless fruits occur naturally in rambutan but this is rare, with an average of 4.46 percent of fruits being seedless. But upon application of a certain amount of Gibberelic Acid, the seedlessness significantly increased to 86.07 percent and could even be 100 percent seedless with the appropriate concentration of the acid.

Among other things, the effect of the Gibberelic Acid on the "new" rambutan fruit were the following: It became "significantly smaller" and the husk became elongated for irregularities. Young fruits became greenish-yellow to pale green color on all fruits's first three months with brownies. The fruit skin is one of the ingredients to that still a fresh color. The seeds are edible when ripened. But, are bitter and said to be narcotic. It takes about to 30 hours bitter, with a high level of insoluble and can be rendered bitter the seeds. The rambutan seeds is edible and can be used for soap and candles. The reddish colored rambutan wood is fairly hard and heavy, and reported to be resistant to insects and to fungi. However, there are records that small it to be colored as bitter.

Research adviser

Romaquin said half the success of her rambutan experiment is attributed to her research adviser, Dr. Nestor Quinoy of the Central Luzon State University, who provided her to come up with a research that she would be joined at.

The dissertation placed second in the regional level of the dissertation category during the 15th Regional Symposium on Research and Development Highlights sponsored by the Western Visayas Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium (WESCOM-RDEC) on Aug. 24-25, 2005 after placing first in the ASU in-house contest on Aug. 3-4, 2005.

Romaquin's work, encapsulated in poetry form, was also adjudged Best Poster at the 19th National Post Symposium at Pampanga Agricultural College on Oct. 19-21, 2005.

Romaquin is wont to discuss how many parts per million (ppm) of Gibberelic Acid is necessary to induce seedlessness and rabutan exactly it should be applied.

Though successful over his experimental level, she still needs to conduct a verification study to determine if the experiment could be used at the farmer's level.

When Aklan's rambutan growers have to say about Romaquin's seedless rambutan experience to see some success 2005, they were battling the glut of rambutan in the market that send prices plummeting and fruits rotting since there was no post-harvest facilities.

Dr. Elsa Abejuan, director in charge of the ASU's Research and Development Service, says that Romaquin's seedless rambutan is one for Aklan as rambutan country to also being blessed for the glut.

"We have put up the Business Center to deal with the rambutan's economy and production-related problems and we said the farmers are contemplating a "bayanihan" (help) system," said Abejuan.

The researcher-ASU plans to have the seedless rambutan go the way of the popular grapes but it looks like they have to wait for Romaquin's plans as she currently says celebrate labored making rambutan trees bear fruit even during off-season.

Shipwreck discovered off Roxas City waters

By Felipe V. Calleo
Roxas City

WAS THE WRECK FOUND OFF THE COAST OF Barangay Baras, Roxas City, a Spanish galleon or cannon trading ship?

Roxas City officials and local folk were amazed after boat divers discovered the sunken ship on May 22 off the waters of Sitio Tabat in Baras. Strong currents from last typhoon "Caring" was believed to have unearthed some portions of the sunken ship, which made it visible from the surface waters.

The ship was first thought to be a galleon or another trading vessel. Others believed it to be a Spanish warship.

Baras resident and well-known diver Ronilo Lumayo, 40, says that to discover the ship buried about 15-20 feet deep and about 1 km from the shore of Baras. Lumayo and 10 other divers were virtually diving for souvenirs when they accidentally spotted the wooden ship.

He told Roxas City Mayor Antonio del Rosario that the ship was made of hardwood and they saw broken jars, among other things. They also discovered gunpowder that had solidified as it spoiled when rubbed with hard pieces of stones or iron.

However, some concerning divers and fishermen had salvaged parts of the vessel and sold it to pandesyos for as high as P6,000, Lumayo said.

A sizeable amount of artifacts taken by some fishers and divers from the ship have, however, been recovered by the city government and will remain in the keeping of the latter.

City officials are awaiting the official assessment of the National Museum (NM) that conducted an underwater of the coast of Barangay Punta Baras last June 1.

Del Rosario instructed Capt. police director Inspector Cipriano Quinoy to place the area under tight security upon the advice of the Philippine Historical Commission. He wanted to document all the findings for historical purposes.

The exploration team is composed of Bobby Villaruel, archeologist from the NM Underwater Archeology Division; Eduardo Santana, to from the NM Cultural Properties Division; Jesse Sinches, an underwater master diver and member of Australian Foundation, Northwind Thom of Pan Sea Land Resources Incorporation; Felipe Bech, a Filipino diver; and Elias Antonino, a staff of Sen. Blas Ruiz to take notes as consultant and guide for the divers.

Warning

Antonio also warned local folk not to make any attempt to salvage the debris from the wreckage. He said Presidential Decree No. 374 prohibits the collection of objects from the wreckage under the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act.

Villaruel said the ship was likely to be a trading ship from the 1800s and not a warship-of-galleon.

He said there are no measurements on the artifacts being kept at the mayor's residence in Barangay Cayas disclosed that they were not to old to 250-year-old galleons.

But he stressed it would be too early to conclude the real age or identity of the sunken vessel as they have yet to properly survey the area.

Samples of recovered artifacts would be brought to the National Museum for proper examination. The exploration team was expected to be back in Roxas City next month.

Based on historical records, Villaruel said, only one galleon has been unearthed and discovered by the National Museum and that was in the waters off Nasugbu, Batangas. It was the San Diego galleon sunk by the Dutch.

Roxas City or Panay Island was not one of the routes used by the galleons, he said.

A MARKER buoys marks the area where a sunken ship, believed to be a galleon, was found. A Ramsay Dagal boat guards the area.

PHOTOS BY FELIPE CALLEO

The Manila Galleon Trade

THE TRADE carried on for hundreds of years spanning between the Spanish colonies during its Manila. A total of 110 Manila galleons sailed for the 250 years of the Manila galleon trade between 1565 to 1815. Until 1683, from a route ships would set sail eastward to San Francisco. The Manila galleons were becoming so famous that the Spanish, Dutch and French Philip, conquering of Portugal, and renewed a from 1585 that all ships of only ten ships to sail each year from either port, with one load or two by both Acapulco and Manila. In order to limit sale of the luxury of an overall, an annual export. With each destination, it was needed to load the largest available galleon, which were the largest vessel on ships now built until the 1600s. The average of on 1,700 to 2,000 tons, were built of Philippine hardwoods and might carry a thousand passengers. The voyage to Acapulco, mandated in 1638, was the longest nonstop sailing in any time—between 140 and 160 feet long and displacing over 2,000 tons. Much of the Asian products of the Philippines and only sought in Mexico. The Manila-Acapulco galleon trade ended when Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821.

SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.HOME.COMCAST.NET/~MANILA GALLEON/

EZ2 25 6 SUERTRES 1 7 7 (2PM 9PM DRAWS) FOUR DIGIT 9 4 1 2

NEWS

MEGALOTTO 6/45 13 15 23 31 38 P4,966,684.20

FPJ remembered at Palace rites

Gordon wants to force vote on poll automation

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER FIGURING A TENSE SESSION WITH opposition senators in the Senate adjourned late Thursday, Sen. Richard Gordon wants to force a vote on his automated election bill, the cause of the suspension, when Congress resumes its regular session next month.

Gordon threw his top asset the delayed passage of his pet bill, angrily count-ramp Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Sergio Osmeña III and were repeatedly challenging the latter to a fist fight.

The disappointed at the senator may serve as a sending something that is very important." But ignominiously left angry and frustrated fourths said it a great feeling.

He stressed how important it is to pass the bill which seeks to introduce election shooting by computerizing the results of the vote electronically.

The sessions who chairs the committee on senate electoral amendments, said the bill whistleblow automated such as the automatic counting process, should be put in a vote when Congress resumes on July 24.

AT EASE: At the Palace Heroes Room, National Artists awardees ask for each other's autographs while they wait for President Arroyo. Abdulmari Asia Imao (left, exhibits a dedication of another awardee as Ben Cabrera's (center) looks on. Bobbit Hame is National Artist for Dance Ramon A. Obusan (right).

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE movie king Fernando Poe Jr. was a no show at the National Artist conferment rites in Malacañang yesterday. So his award was not handed out.

But the memory of the late actor was alive and well during the conferment rites, even if his gold medallion and citation were left unclaimed by his family, who decided to skip the event.

FPJ's friends in business and in life who attended yesterday's rites readily remembered him and his contributions to the film industry.

For named "ordinary screen roles to iconic Filipino every man," according to National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) chair Ambeth Ocampo.

Emily Abrera, chair of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, called FPJ "a giant of the movies and country," whereas another for was able to let the organized the above his situation through to the many who pleasures to be movies.

The program was shorter than previous years with the President opting not to give a speech. Organizers called out the names of the National Artists awardees, except for FPJ.

Then Poe's family was not served, no confirmation of his award was made.

Organizers did not read his citation, musician and President Macapagal-Arroyo was left to confer the awards to six awardees categorized in their respective fields.

Conferred with the Order of National Artists were Bienvenido Lumbera (Literature), Ramon Obusan (Dance), Benedicto Cabrera (Visual Arts), Alicia Vergel (Music), Abdulmari Asia Imao (Sculpture) and Ramon Valera Obusan (Design), all listed Arts and Architecture.

Undiscouraged

Speaking candidly, Obusan gave a "coming out surprise" after the conferment rites. In the past, each awardee gave a response.

National Artist awardee and noted film director Eddie Romero attended the event but didn't accept the award for FPJ because he was no longer authorized by Poe's widow, Susan Roces.

"I don't think they refused to accept the award, they refuse to appear, to receive the award," Romero clarified.

"I would wish for a member of the family to accept the award and all the award did not come from the President but to fellow actors of FPJ and to the people who admired him," Lumbera said.

Then Secretary Ignacio Bunye said even if Poe's family did not accept the award, this "does not take away from the true grandeur's pride in his contributions to the Philippine movie industry, for which the nation lends its many recognition and respect."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that Poe's family could claim the award to Malacañang "anytime and at their pleasure."

Cecilia Gallardo Guinsatao, Presidential Adviser on Cultural, said another ceremony could be held at the NCCA or the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Meanwhile, administration lawmakers yesterday awarded attempts to politicize the award given to the late actor, saying it was given solely for his exciting achievements in the arts and culture.

Representatives Edwin Ilagan, Lakas-Kampi; and Manuel Dominguez Lakas-Kampi-CMD called for a stop to the intrigues following the Poe family's decision not to attend the awarding ceremonies.

With Philip C. Tubeza

Guess who came to the Palace?

By Christine O. Avendaño

GUESS WHO WAS IN MALACAÑANG YESterday?

After earlier making herself scarce, Time magazine correspondent Nelly Henderson suddenly appeared at the Palace yesterday to attend the conferment rites of the National Artist awards.

But Henderson, who was being hunted by senior officials and placed on the hold departure list, declined to talk about her tiff with Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez after both were greeting her to avoid what she knew would be allegedly plan to overthrow the Arroyo administration last February.

Gonzalez told reporters that she was in Malacañang for fellow Tausug, Abdulmari Asia Imao, one of the National Artist awardees.

Imao was recognized for his work and contributions in the field of sculpture.

"It's such an honor for a Tausug Muslim to be awarded. I think it's more than high time," Henderson told reporters.

Gonzalez had earlier summoned Henderson to get more details about the Feb.22 dinner she attended with Mrs. Arroyo, Ambassador Francis "Bing" Pangilinan and former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco. But she had ignored the summons, prompting Gonzalez to put her on the hold-departure list.

In her article which appeared in Time, Henderson wrote about telephone conversations that Senator "Boy" Enrile had with certain officials and which he allowed her to listen. The phone conversations led to do with alleged moves to overthrow the Arroyo administration during the Edsa I celebration.

The Time report was used by Malacañang as evidence that there was a conspiracy to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Police say Cordillera killing was well planned

By Willard Virgil Jr. and Dennis Cabuso

SAN JUAN, ABRA—THE KILLING OF A leader of the militant Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) was a carefully planned operation, the police chief of this town said yesterday.

Fellow the G. Jacinto bus carrying Rafael Markus Bangit, head of the CPA elders' desk, left the terminal in Tabuk, Kalinga, at 5 p.m. on Thursday, a clerk that Mindoro Dalka was already closely following, said Supt. Danilo Antiz.

Dueling the bus driver's account, Antiz said the van with five men on board counter, and he told the bus guard to reached Isabela and stopped at the Filmi restaurant in Barangay Quezon, San Isidro, at 7 p.m.

It was outside the restaurant that the gunmen alighted from the van and shot Bangit, 47. Then bodies fell and killed Oba in Cavaga, a high school principal of Quezon town, who was also traveling to Bangit.

"The driver saw that the van was rolling by fast...so he diverted it to the Mutant na Kidney store in Luz Minco town, but when the bus reached Alicia town, the driver again saw the van following," Antiz said.

He said the gunmen might have had a backup car on hand for fast retreating them of Bangit's movements.

The gunmen fled toward Santiago City in the south, police said.

Shock, outrage

In Baguio City, CPA chair Joan Carling said a man in a motorcycle was seen shadowing Bangit in Tabuk days before he was attacked.

Militant groups led by the CPA held a rally yesterday on Session Road to condemn the killing of Bangit, leader of the Mutalingan in Tabuk.

"We are shocked, outraged and saddened by this killing, and we demand justice for Melen Bangit and his family," Carling said, adding:

"Our country is under the reign of terror perpetrated by the state. It is killing its own citizens with impunity, and it looks does not deserve us for its power because the cannot even protect the people."

Carling said Bangit, secretary general of the CPA elders' group Kinabuyngan Region Organization, was a respected leader known for helping resolve tribal conflicts in the region.

Aplus METRO

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Being a mover and a shaker can be a very draining experience, especially in the frenetic pace of Makati. Getting bowled in by all the big decisions can take its toll on you, especially when you are unable to reward yourself for all the hard work that you put in. An entire day can leave you too drained and burnt out to even reap the rewards of your success.

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BAY GARDEN

Another movie theater designed by National Artist faces demolition

By Jeremiah Reming

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR Culture and the Arts has ordered an "emergency response committee" to monitor, preserve and save from destruction privately-owned buildings or structures designed by National Artists.

"We want to know in advance if the structures designed by these members are endangered or are about to be demolished or changed so we can lobby or negotiate to save them," NCCA executive director Cecilia Guidote-Alvarez told the Standard. Recently, a wrecking crew had started tearing down the Avenue Theater on Rizal Avenue designed by National Artist Juan Nakpil.

The committee was activated as the NCCA learned that the Galaxy Theater in Sta. Cruz, Manila, a major work of 1976 National Artist for Architecture Pablo Antonio, has been scheduled for demolition to make way for a parking lot.

The NCCA also discovered that at least two old houses along Quiapo's R. Hidalgo Street – particularly the Santiago and Enriquez mansions, had been sold and could be torn down or renovated.

Alvarez said the committee, whose members include NCCA officials, particularly from the heritage sites office, would be networking with conservationists in the private sector to mount campaigns to protect vanishing architectural treasures.

Several conservationists, among their bloggers, have already initiated "e-mail and phone brigades" to convince Manila Mayor Lito Atienza not to issue a demolition permit for Galaxy.

The theater was built in the Art Moderne style, which is more streamlined than art Deco and dominated by slick lines that connote movement, agility and speed. "Galaxy is a lovely movie house, also among the prime movie houses during its time," said architect Richard Tan, son-in-law Bautista of the NCCA heritage committee.

Realestate is documenting the state of the Avenue, Galaxy and other theaters built in the classic style on Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz, Manila, which are in danger of being demolished or are falling into a state of disrepair like it also building a mall over the nostalgic Lyric.

"Galaxy's façade has an art buffet that creates a very dignified character to the structure. The stairway leading the balcony is very graceful while the arcade post is accented with undulating-like streaks," Bautista said.

The theater had an original 1970s slide-screen projector, built in Belgium in the '50s, which became popular in international movies until the '90s.

Apart from Bautista, Alvarez also designated a team of movie theaters in Manila such as Forum, Ideal, Life, Lyric and Roxas. His other works include the Far Eastern University's Administration and Science buildings, the Manila Polo Club, Boulevard, Alimodian Inns, Bel-Air apartments) and the Rizal-Benin Publications Building (now Business Institute of Electronics).

According to Bautista, the Rizal avenue area is "a remarkable repository" of the post war works done by National Artists and leading names in Philippine architecture.

GOMEZ at the old house on R. Hidalgo Street in Quiapo, Manila.

THE GALAXY Theater on Rizal Avenue will be demolished to make way for a parking lot.

METROBRIEFS

Woman killed in fire

A 60-YEAR-OLD woman was killed while trying to save some of her belongings in a fire that hit their home on Lim Pilar Dik-Dik Street yesterday, fire authorities said. Dead is Elvira Sala already elderly person of her house to Lim Pimal, Pasay. Lt. Armando Ubaga in Barangay Tabe, after a fire broke out in the burning room around 8:32 a.m. Workers. Ubaga returned to the house to save some valuables belongings. Lim Pilar the married Sala. Her sister, Richard Dela said. Bureau fire Department confirmed that the burning house and three neighbor. It added in the burning structure. Where fire the area period of 6:00 a.m. Fireman found the body in the smoke bedroom. Although the cause of the fire has not yet been established, investigators said it could be electrical – which is the cause of the house. the fire also caused the lose. It is not. Fireman estimated the total damage to property at P2 million.

Jennifer R. Sy

3 nabbed for drugs

THREE suspected drug peddlers were arrested before dawn yesterday after police raided a crowded Quezon City barangay. Three Tagaytay City officers making in illegal drugs was arrested, police said. Inside four Kalinaw Bisong, head of the city's Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) Lieutenant Leon Angel Barrera Paredes and Lieutenant Jonathan were arrested after residents in the area hauled police about their whereabouts. "They have been the subject of complaints from residents who have been allegedly selling drugs openly in the streets," Bisong told the barangay. The raid was carried out at around 6:30 a.m. by the DEU and the Police and Public Safety Office headed by Councilor Rainy Dimson. Recovered from the suspects were narcotics of undetermined quantity and value, as well as P6,500 allegedly drug proceeds.

Jennifer R. Sy

60,000 jobs available

AT LEAST 60 local companies and foreign businesses are expected to participate in a job fair to be held at SM Park on June 12, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They will be offering more than 60,000 jobs, mostly in customer-oriented positions requiring computer and/or call skills. There will also be one-time and part-time job opportunities. Qualified Metro Manila residents who have at least a college degree and who are willing to work in call centers, banks, retail establishments, manufacturing companies, as well as in the electronics and healthcare industries are encouraged to attend the job fair. Search is looking for graduates of business courses, nurses, medical technologists, as well as in the fields of engineering, accountancy, computer and engineers.

Nanda Santos

Manila, Valenzuela launch antidengue campaign

By Tina G. Santos and Nancy C. Carvajal

OFFICIALS OF MANILA AND Valenzuela have stepped up their campaign against dengue after several cases were reported in their respective areas.

"The local government is working full blast to fight the spread of dengue and to protect more people from being afflicted with the disease," Valenzuela Mayor Bernadito Gatchalian said.

Based on a Department of Health report, nearly 200 dengue cases were reported in Valenzuela recently in the second district — during the first six months of the year.

Three were there Manila, two in January and one in March.

The city was one of the areas in Metro Manila where there was a high incidence of dengue fever, the report added.

In Manila, four cases were reported last week to the city's Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases Division (EPID), fewer than last year's figures.

"Last year, we had 12 cases during the same period," EPID chief Dr. Eduardo Jacinto told the Inquirer.

Despite the decrease, in the cases, however, Jacinto said they would be launching an information campaign to raise residents' awareness of how they can curb the spread of the deadly disease which is transmitted by the Aedes Aegypti mosquito.

The Manila government likewise ordered barangay officials to post health advisories in how other diseases like influenza and leptospirosis, which usually become prevalent during the rainy season, could be prevented.

"These advisories should be posted prominently not only in barangay halls but in other public places as well," Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said.

Valenzuela City Mayor Bernie Gatchalian, meanwhile, ordered health officials to conduct fogging operations in respected barangay areas of the dengue-ravaged Valenzuela.

He also called on the public to cooperate with the City Health Office in fighting the spread of the disease by conducting clean up activities.

"We enjoin residents to help the local government in this effort because this is also their responsibility, and not just that of the local government," Gatchalian said.

Palace guards don't arrest and torture people

ON TARGET
Alexander Dagoo

THE REPORT THAT SOME men from the Presidential Security Group (PSG) were involved in the abduction and alleged torture of five employees of former President Estrada's driver is irresponsible to say the least.

Rep. Sen. Alvin Bangit, PSG chief, was right in calling it "absurd" and "unimaginable." The source of the report, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, should not have come up with a statement during a Senate hearing that he says checking information that two PSG men were part of the unveiling team. It was on that basis that the Senate published the story.

The PSG — and even its predecessor, the Presidential Security Command — has never been involved in the arrest and torture of alleged enemies of the state. Even during the administration of Ferdinand Marcos, the PSG never took part in arresting and torturing crime suspects.

I know that for a fact because I was a police reporter during the middle part of Marcos' martial law era. The PSG then and the PSC now concerns itself solely with guarding the Palace grounds and the President himself.

The Philippine Rule Authority (PRA) issued guidelines on the medical expenses of OFWs. Relief who was seriously injured when a grenade was thrown at the Cotabato City DSS office May 22. The family of Gil Kevanes, 57, has requested to use their insurance claim P400,000 for the ambulance. His daily ambulance cost P40,000.

Mendoza's bill in the San Pedro Hospital in Davao City was P40,000. As of June 5. The bill keeps increasing every day since Kevanes has undergone brain surgery and a tracheostomy, an operation to enable him breathe.

The PPA says the family P200,000 but this has already been spent on hospital and medical expenses, said Geraldine, the victim's son. The PPA should spend for all of Kevanes's hospital and medical bills since he was injured while performing his job. He "ill," I mean not a couple minutes should be spent by the Kevanes family for his hospital and medical expenses.

Transportation and Communication Secretary Jesse Robredo Mendoza, PPA board chair, and PPA general manager Oscar Gordon, should know this.

Lawyers should not make side comments that can embarrass the people of high education. Pacific Basin Inc. (PBI) spokesperson lawyer Felix Desiderio complained he was unfairly terminated by Mayor Osmeña, former of the Panelo Building Davao Godoy, during the burning of the alleged syndicated estate. filed by PBI against PBI officers.

According to Desiderio, Osmeña said, "Sa amon pagpanguna, wala yang bomba bomba ug building, di sunog gagawin yan. Dinamuyan lang kanan si ka Jingit' ito Lopez, na don't bomb buildings when we're supposed We just call on ka Jingit'. Ka Jingit is Gregorio Rosal, spokesperson of the New People's Army (NPA).

3 firemen arrested for abducting Japanese trader

METRO police chief Hidel Quezon (second, right) looks at the P40,000 in cash seized from three firemen accused of abducting and extorting money from Japanese businessman Mitsunao Ruchiko (right). The suspects were arrested in an entrapment operation after the victim's friend sought help from the police.

By DJ Yap

THREE QUEZON CITY FIREMEN were arrested on Thursday night for allegedly abducting and then extorting money from a Japanese businessman in exchange for his freedom.

Agents of the Quezon City Police District Intelligence and Investigation Division (DIID) caught the suspects, all of the QC Central Fire District, in an entrapment operation.

The suspects were identified by his safety supervisor MOS Fortunato Dale and arson investigators FO2 Noel Bernardino and FO1 Jerik Bongcawel.

According to their alleged victim, Mitsunao Kushiko, 37, the firemen abducted him on May 30, and detained him for seven days in an undisclosed location. The suspects demanded P40,000 for his release, he added.

With the help of the crew of ABS-CBN's investigative TV program, "EDC," a friend of Kushiko, from whom he suspects had not served and demanded money, sought help from the police who pleaded to an entrapment operation. DIID chief Supt. Roger Jones Billones and the operation resulted in the arrest of the suspects and the release of the Japanese. The police operations later recovered the P40,000.

Kushiko told police that his troubles began when his girlfriend, Anely Torres, allegedly stole P1.5 million in mixed currencies (Philippine pesos and Japanese yen) from his rented room on April 4.

On May 30, he went to the house of Torres' manager, a certain Jimmy Ly in La Loma to ask about Torres' whereabouts, but he left disappointed. Angered, he threw a lighted cigarette under Ly's car before pretending to a nearby bar. At about 11 p.m., Kushiko was waiting for a taxi when he, Torres and six of their accomplices confronted him in the barangay hall for supposedly trying to set fire to Ly's vehicle, he said.

Minutes later, a team of firefighters came to get him.

Iran resumes uranium enrichment work

VIENNA—IRAN RESTARTED the process nuclear activities on the same day the world did not vote for sanctions against it. Tehran confirmed it encouraging the completely suspension of the nuclear work, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported on Thursday.

The Washington Post said that the pouring of a new form of uranium into a set of 164 could begin sometime to produce enriched uranium, said the nuclear monitoring agency based in Vienna, Austria.

That same day, Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, was in Tehran, where he presented Iranian leaders with an international package of incentives to help resolve the crisis caused by the country's nuclear program.

There was no explanation for Iran's decision.

The resolution seems likely to diffuse the resolve of the United States and the European in particular that a complete freeze of uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities is a condition for formal negotiations.

In April, Iran succeeded in enriching uranium in the low levels needed to fuel a nuclear reactor. Later that month, without explanation, it stopped introducing the raw form of uranium into the machines known as centrifuges that can fuel nuclear reactors or bombs. The empty machines continued to run, which it necessary to prevent them from wobbling and crashing.

Iran has continued to catch centrifuges so over the centrifuges, so there was never a total halt, the agency reported said, and Iran is continuing to build two more 164-centrifuge cascades as part of its long-term plan to enrich more uranium.

The report also said that the agency's inspectors had found new types of highly controlled uranium on equipment on Iran. But the agency has not yet determined whether the item came from equipment that had been bought from an outside source or from its own enrichment.

The report was also based on Iran's progress on a number of long-standing issues of concern about Iran's nuclear program that have eroded the atomic energy agency's confidence in the country.

The report was sent to the 35 countries on the atomic energy agency's decision-making board in advance of its regularly scheduled meetings in Vienna, Austria, next week. It was distributed on a confidential basis to the news media.

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In Washington, the State Department spokesperson, Sean McCormack, said the United States was still hopeful that Iran would respond positively to the incentives package, but declined to comment in the report that Iran had moved into a new phase of uranium enrichment. AST

Thai king marks 60 years on throne

BANGKOK, THAILAND—HUNDREDS of thousands of adoring Thais thronged Bangkok's Royal Plaza on Friday in cheers and waves of yellow flags as their king marked his 60th year on the throne by calling for unity following months of political upheaval.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest serving monarch, wore a glittering golden crown and guarded the crowd from the palace balcony in only the third such appearance of his royal career, amid the salutes of becoming servants.

"Unity is a basis for all Thais to help preserve and bring prosperity to the country in the long run," the king said in his 30-minute speech. "If Thais uphold these virtues, it will ensure that Thailand will stand firmly," he said.

The crowd had waited for an appearance with a deafening roar. Many of them began gathering late Thursday to save the roads near the Royal Plaza into a sea of yellow—with their yellow shirts and flags symbolizing the anniversary.

After his speech, Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit stood on the balcony and waved to the gathered Thais, who, wind, held their hands together in reverence and shouted, "Long live The King."

"I feel like I am getting to meet with our father," popular Thai actor Somsorek Pooreebong said in the happy crowd. "This has always been one of my dreams to see the king."

Regarded by many Thais as semi-deified or as the soul of Thailand, the 78-year-old king is much loved for dispelling Asia's upstream projects to benefit the rural poor and using his moral influence to calm the country during political turmoil.

Thursday and hoards of were from around the world have descended upon Bangkok for the festivities, which will include fireworks, floats and a river parade featuring dozens of gilded ceremonial boats.

KING Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest serving monarch, waves to the crowd during 2006 celebrating his 60th anniversary of becoming Thailand's king.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who has been a lightning rod for the country's worst turmoil with critics accusing of the latest to his authoritarian rule, complained and dismissed his survey, told the crowd that the king has helped keep the country centered.

"Thailand has been occupied by many rulers and the people have lived with happiness significantly because of the king's power," Thaksin told the crowd.

Although a constitutional monarch with limited powers, the king has used his privileged status to favor opposing parties in compromise for the sake of peace and stability.

In April, the king tapped the military to step in and help resolve the political deadlock that left Thailand with no working legislature after inconclusive April 2 elections that were boycotted by the opposition, after being called on the carpet by the king. On another, the royal appeal that vote, paving the way for new polls.

"The king has been a center of faith, a source of moral support and power for the nation, who has driven the country with perseverance, balance and good conscience," Thaksin said.

Thailand has declared other day public holiday for the events, declaring Tuesday with a royal banquet.

Heads of states and representatives of royal houses from 25 countries—including Japan's Emperor Akihito, Britain's Prince Andrew and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands—were expected to attend the celebrations.

Thais have been collecting in for nearly for weeks, with everyone from elites' readies to office workers and students donning yellow shirts to the king's honor, fellow commemorate by in addition with the day he was born, Monday.

King Bhumibol was named king on June 9, 1946, after the death of his older brother. AP

S. Korea launches new sub

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA'S navy on Friday launched a new submarine equipped with advanced missiles and weapons systems and capable of staying underwater for up to 50 days.

The 1,800-ton 214-class submarine was launched from the Hyundai Heavy Industries shipyard in the southeastern port of Ulsan, the Navy said in a press release.

It is the first of a series of nine 214-class submarines that will be built locally over the next 12 years, navy sources said.

The vessel has a top speed of 20 knots with a cruise of 40 and is armed with advanced weapons including anti-ship cruise missiles. AFP

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(Public Estates Authority)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SECURITY SERVICES FOR (PRA) PROPERTIES

PALESTINIANS protest Israel's against a plan by Abbas to hold a referendum on establishing a Palestinian state alongside the Jewish state. AP/PHOTO

WorldBriefs

Swiss thwart plot to attack El Al plane

BERN—Swiss police authorities said Thursday that they had thwarted a plot by supporters of Osama bin Laden to attack a plane of the Israeli airline El Al. Officials said the plot was discovered in March and that the suspects were arrested in early May. The Federal Prosecutor's Office said that the individuals had been detained in Germany at the request of Switzerland's Federal Criminal Police. The office did not reveal the nationalities of the suspects or the Israeli airline's destination in Switzerland

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

Curfew in Baghdad

Zarqawi death spurs tighter security

BAGHDAD—BAGHDAD WAS PLACED UNDER curfew Friday to enhance security in the wake of two evening bombings in marketplaces that followed news that al-Qaeda in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi had been killed.

Iraq as US and Iraqi officials proclaimed that Zarqawi's unrelenting brutality would launch more attacks to ensure their organization's continued presence in the country, two car bombs exploded in predominantly Shiite neighborhoods killing 15 people.

"The curfew is necessary to keep people indoors as there could be more bombings like the ones last night, following Zarqawi's death," a defense ministry official said.

Vehicles will be banned from the streets of Baghdad until security forces, closer to where Zarqawi was killed, from 11 a.m. (0700 GMT) until 5 p.m. (1200 GMT), coinciding with Friday prayers.

Zarqawi was killed Wednesday in a joint US-Iraqi raid.

(5) Fifteen planes dropped two 500-pound bombs on him and some associates as they were holed up in something of a safe house.

Imposition of curfews in Baghdad and Ramadi addresses the most immediate fear in the wake of Zarqawi's killing, namely the threat to attack his death will affect the wave of violence claiming dozens of lives across the country each day.

In marked contrast to the ugly gloating and revenge rhetoric characterizing most of the media after the fall of Saddam Hussein in April 2003, or even Saddam's capture that December, US officials have been remarkably cautious.

US President George W. Bush described the event as a "victory" in the war on terror and a chance to "turn the tide." AFP

JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE 'OFFICE'
A girl tries up a sack after a day's work in a garbage dump in New Delhi June 8. REUTERS

Vaccine to protect against cervical cancer wins US approval

WASHINGTON—WOMEN FOR the first time have a vaccine to prevent themselves against cervical cancer.

The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday licensed the vaccine, Gardasil, for use in girls and women aged 9 to 26. The vaccine works by preventing infection by four of the dozens of strains of the human papillomavirus, or HPV, the most prevalent sexually transmitted disease.

By age 50, some 80 percent of women have been infected.

Gardasil protects against the two types of HPV responsible for about 70 percent of cervical cancers. The vaccine also blocks infection by two other strains responsible for 90 percent of genital wart cases. The vaccine will be available by the end of the month, with a three-shot series costing $360 (over P18,000).

In manufacturer, Merck & Co. Inc., seeks similar approval elsewhere around the world. Each year, cervical cancer kills an estimated 240,000 women worldwide, including 3,700 in the United States.

"FDA approval of the HPV vaccine, the first vaccine targeted specifically to preventing cancer, is one of the most important advances in women's health in recent years," said Dr. Gordon Stamoulis, president of the American Cancer Society. The vaccine developed for hepatitis B has been shown to protect against liver cancer.

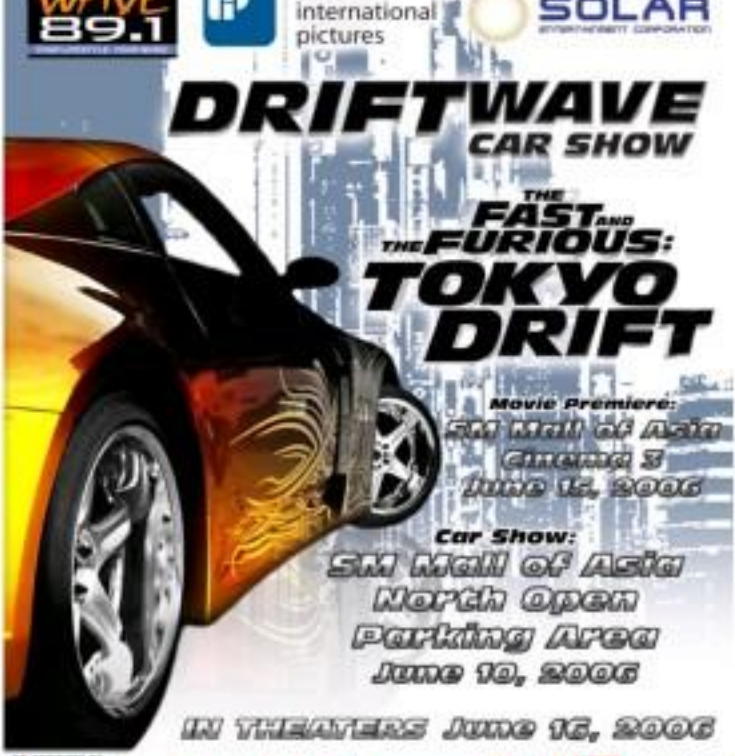
Gilead Sciences showed Gardasil prevented 100 percent of cervical cancer related to the two HPV strains in women who had not been previously infected, Merck said. It also prevented 99 percent of the cases of genital warts caused by the same other strains.

Fortunately, we can now include the seven types of HPV and most cervical cancer in the list of diseases that no one need suffer or die from ever again," said Alex Azar, deputy Health and Human Services secretary.

Research presented earlier suggests an added bonus to Gardasil. It also prevents against vaginal and vulvar cancers linked to the four types of HPV.

Gardasil works best when given to girls before they begin having sex and cuts the risk of HPV infections. The vaccine does not protect those already infected.

The FDA said that Gardasil appeared very safe. It remains unclear if its effect is long-lasting or if women will need booster shots later in life. Merck will monitor its long-term effectiveness. AP



Islamists tighten grip on Mogadishu

MOGADISHU—SOMALI ISLAMISTS CONSOLIdated their grip on the lawless capital Mogadishu Thursday, setting up vast Islamic law courts in and around the city despite vows from a US-backed warlord alliance to resist.

With most of Mogadishu under their control after months of bloody fighting, Muslim militia pulled back from the warlords' last stronghold under pressure from elders not to attack, ending veteran five-day standoff.

Witnesses said the Islamists moved back from Jowhar, about 90 km north of Mogadishu, and their wounded fighters had taken up their former position in Kabkaayo some 40 km south of the town.

Elders convinced the Islamic courts to move back from Kalimey," one resident told reporters in Jowhar. "We are trying to end tensions."

In the town, about 1,500 people rallied in support of the warlords.

"We will defend ourselves if the Islamists attack," said Abdullahi Mohamed Ali, chairman of the Middle Shabelle regional council.

"We will fight to the death to defend our people and our territory."

Despite their partial withdrawal, which put them some 150 km of Beled Hawa, 20 km north of Mogadishu, the Islamists expanded their influence even as clashes and mixed messages about their ultimate goal.

Despite assurances they will not forcibly impose strict Islamic rules on Somalia's largely moderate Muslim population, imams have ordered at least three new Sharia courts to formerly secular areas since Wednesday, officials said. AFP

East Timor says it will need UN help for a decade

DILI, EAST TIMOR—THE UN SHOULD HELP oversee elections in East Timor and stay involved in the violence-scarred nation for at least a decade, the foreign ministers said Friday, noting that restoring order and building a democracy will take time and money.

Jose Ramos-Horta said it was in no one's interest to see East Timor — where riots, looting arson and gunfire have engulfed the capital just four years after it won independence — turn into a "failed state."

"I believe that East Timor, even in light of current events, is still a success story," Ramos-Horta said in a statement put in the field letter Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer. The events of the past month has sent it down the depths of instability from which East Timor has risen, rather than the heights of security it has yet to acquire to."

Some 600 striking soldiers were dismissed in March, triggering clashes with loyalist forces and looting gangs—warfare in the capital last month. At least 35 people have been killed, and Ramos-Horta has said the death toll may be higher. AP

SPORTS
Editor Tonyboy S. Philandrew

MEG Bulls's forward Ken Alvarez bears Ginebra strongman Eric Menk in the rebounds in last night's game.

Gin Kings thrash Bulls

By Jose Navarro

RED BULLY DEFENSIVE PLOY on Mark Cagulao didn't work. Worse, rookie Mark Barcelogal even rode Barangay Ginebra's rousing bandwagon.

Cagulao and Barcelogal combined for the third quarter in the Kings cruised to a 115-101 thrashing of the Bulls to even up their PBA Philippine Cup quarterfinal series last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cagulao, who finished with 11 points on top of 12 rebounds, three assists and three steals, came up with 11 points in the pivotal third while Barcelogal dazzled from three-point range and pumped in 10 of his 21 points there.

Jon Menk delivered a game-high 31 points and grabbed 16 boards, marking the first time that two players in a team scored at least 30 points in a local tournament since Menk and Sonny Alvarado did it in 2000 while playing for Tanduay.

"Nick's a warrior," said Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingen, who levelled the best-of-five series to 1-1. Game 3 is set tomorrow at the Big Dome. "He's the glue that keeps us together."

But while Cagulao and Menk are known offensive threats, Barcelogal wasn't expected to give the Bulls a lot of headaches.

"He's a Cinderella story," said Tanquingen.

Unsigned by the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals after being picked 10th overall, Barcelogal tried his luck with the Gin Kings and finally got his biggest break when Jenino Gebolaga suffered from a sore hip in the solitary game.

The 5'8 Barcelogal proved to everybody that he deserves to be in the league," said Tanquingen.

Led by Lordy Tugade's 19 points and Larry Fonacier's 16 rebounds, the Bulls let Cagulao and Barcelogal explode in the third as the Kings turned a nervous 52-51 edge into a 98-79 balloon.

Tanquingen, however, wasn't happy with the way the referees handled the tense physicality of the game.

"Being physical is a part of the game but not the point of deliberately hurting the player," said Tanquingen. "If the players get severely hurt, he might lose his livelihood."

The reserved Ginebra coach was referring one non-basketball play by Bulls' Jumby Sakiwada three-a-closed the on Cagulao's nape and followed it up with a elbow on the lower to the first half.

The scores:

GINEBRA 115—Menk 31, Cagulao 11, Tiburcio 10, Barcelogal 21, Semerad 5, Dillinger 6, Ildefonso 0, Tubid 0, Tanquingen 0, Arboleda 0, Barroca 2, Galanza 0, Fonacier 16, Tugade 12, Aguilar 0, Tolentino 0, Tiburcio 0, Cruz 0, Villanueva 2, Bugarin 4, Hubalde 2, Alvarez 0.

Quarters: 29-26; 52-51; 98-79; 115-101.

JOINT VENTURES IN REAL ESTATE PROJECTS
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

Fiba-Asia wants BAP suspension lifted

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LIM.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Romasanta said the BAP maneuvers didn't mean anything. But he admitted that Fiba-Asia is "sympathetic" to the BAP which the POC regarded because of its position that don't sit well with the POC.

Romasanta said the POC, which is pushing for a group called Pilipinas Basketball composed of basketball stakeholders in the country, is namely following the advice of Fiba World secretary general Patrick Baumann.

Spring-Parañaque, Ozamiz rule NBC eliminations

[illegible] Valencia, 100-94, Thursday to top the northern division elimination in the 2006 Governor Ronald V. Dela Cruz Basketball championship at the Valencia City gym in Bukidnon.

Defending champion Ozamiz City also stamped its dominance in the southern classic's opener by crushing the visiting Iloilo Wheelers, 107-93, in Oroquieta City.

NBC president Ildefonso Dell'Isola Jr.'s Cooking Oil Masters backed with a 7-0 record while Mayor Reynaldo Parcasio's Oroquieta reject clubbed up a 9-2 slate and gained home court advantage throughout the playoffs.

Fernando Adcon Antonio and Randy Romero produced big games as the Cooking Oil Masters topped for the first time the northern group of the tourney sponsored by Pennswax, Sulpicio Lines, Nissan's Spring Mineral Water, Sarang Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Mobico and Prime Chemicals.

Rogem Bucher Sison cagied with 21 points and 14 rebounds as Ozamiz boosted its bid to appear in NBC national champion.

Ozamiz 100— Antonio 22, Sison 17, Bernhardt 13, Yee 12, De Carlo 8, Dayot 6, Sagadraca 5, Tampar 5, Arenas 5, Wan 5, Lagahit, Rabaya 2, Bacus 1.

Iloilo 93— Sison 26, Bandoc 18, Carlos 9, Ramos 8, Andrew 7, Ramos 7, Arenas 6, Galvez, Ramos 4, Gabriel, Ramos 3, Lagahit, Ramos 2, Galvez, Ramos 1, Tampar 1, Sagadraca 1, Rabaya 1.

Quarters: 1st 26-18; 2nd 52-42; 3rd 77-67; 4th 100-93.

Iloilo 107— Alcoba 21, Antonio 17, Bernhardt 17, Sison 15, Dayot 11, Yee 10, Tampar 7, Arenas 6, Wan 3, Lagahit, Rabaya 2, Bacus 1.

Ozamiz 93— Sison 21, Bandoc 18, Carlos 9, Ramos 8, Andrew 7, Ramos 7, Arenas 6, Galvez, Ramos 4, Gabriel, Ramos 3, Lagahit, Ramos 2, Galvez, Ramos 1, Tampar 1, Sagadraca 1, Rabaya 1.

Quarters: 1st 26-18; 2nd 52-42; 3rd 77-67; 4th 100-93.

Germany hopes to put up show

Tackles Costa Rica in WC opener

BRAZILIAN soccer players Robinho (left) and Cicinho celebrate a goal during their training session in Offenbach, Germany. AFP

BERLIN, GERMANY (AP) — The opening match of the 2006 World Cup finals on Friday hoping that they can put on a show worthy of the opening ceremony and the fireworks that'll end in a damp squib with defeat at the hands of Costa Rica.

Opening match shocks are no stranger to football's champion event and the Czech Republic were very well there will be they cheered when they beat Scotland and Sweden to reach the last 16 at the 1990 edition.

The match has should seem to many German fans support for the tournament's hosts, the greatest pass in sport and ethnic is being held in the country for just the second time, 32 years after the Bern West Germany was host.

While in England in particular the holding has been overshadowed with the [illegible] of 16, George Graham's boss [illegible] and sun—with even Prime Minister Tony Blair agreeing to host a big Sun, 10 Downing Street—millions now has been more upbeat in Germany.

A mere eight two could be the promise of Klinsmann's side in the opener against the tournament for just as successfully as England let themselves trouble again at Wayne Rooney was passed fit to play at least a part in the tournament, the German's status hasn't really been in question since a 4-1 romp off for the opener because it's still early.

Indeed whether the 20 years-old Chelsea signing remains a feeling of the German first minister to be seen at his host better contained for not having the injury preceded to position—something that he was quick to deny.

"I expect any innovation that I be barred in any way responsibility," said Ballack in a statement carried on the DFB website.

"Any such allegations are totally unacceptable. It's essentially an affront on my reputation, the things that are being said about me and what's being put about."

The other match-ups were well be a lower key affair with Poland taking on Ecuador at Gelsenkirchen with both sides endeavoring to achieve something they didn't manage in 2002, and co-opting on host Berlin's Olympiastadion when Trinidad & Tobago and Sweden meet.

Whatever the results there will be no certain winner on the opening day when the first ball is kicked and final will be Germany football legend Franz Beckenbauer.

The legendary defender must be the first man to have won the World Cup as player, a coach and then as a tid. Twice in his running out that presentation—incorporating a bit of showmanship—back in 2000 helped win it at the death from the stunned South 40-0000.

The Munich striker is never of course to have their day here—as next will host the 2010 renewal but on Friday they will have to sit back and watch the finals that Beckenbauer won on-the-pitch and the "Kaiser" will hope that all his efforts do not end in vain.

He will have no influence as what happens on the pitch but somehow with all that has gone before in his career it seems unlikely that he will be disappointed as the host country will [illegible] AFP

Brazil practice lures 25,000

OFFENBACH, BRAZIL (AFP) — HISTORIC reputation as international football's greatest team was reinforced on Thursday when 25,000 people turned out to watch a training session.

Around 5,000 Brazilian supporters also managed to witness the astounding champions go through their paces in the obligatory open World Cup workout.

Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira organised an exhibition match for the team's impressive audience.

With Ronaldo absent with a fever, the team was composed of Dida, Cafu, Lucio, Juliano Belletti, Emerson, Zé Roberto, Robinho, Ricardinho, Adriano and Kaka. The game finished 3-2 with Robinho and Adriano on target while Silvestre and Luisao were the scorers for the "other" Brazil. AFP

Dimakiling, Torre prevail

HENLY INSTALLED OLIVINO INTERNATIONAL master and 47th pick Oliver Dimakiling (Elo 2451) outscored Elo Dominic Torre (Elo 2419) in 49 minutes Goldenkeeper (Elo 2556) using the white pieces and moved closer toward his first GM result in the fifth round of the 2nd San Mateo International Chess Open Thursday at the Rizal Congress Center in Rosario—if San Mateo.

Dimakiling, 26, now has 4.0 points for the same subject of completion GM Eugene Torre, top seed GM Joseph Tristan (Elo 2697) of the Mellenbeck and nine others.

The 24th-seed Torre, tipped No. 64 Eden Bruno (Elo).

Overnight solo leader No. 8 GM Vidal Mike (Elo 2622) of Switzerland halted the point with Dutch GM Tristan to create a four-way logjam for first place with 4.0 points each.

They are Mike, No. 10 GM Jean Bilvert (Elo 2607) of Greece, No. 15 GM Varuzhan Akobian (Elo 2587) of the USA and No. 22 GM Tomasz Markowski (Elo 2534) of Poland.

GM Mark Paragua (Elo 2617) and reigning SEP national champion NM Darwin Laylo (Elo 2400) stumbled against No. 21 IM Ginge Pham (Elo 2494) of Argentina on [illegible] 31 GM Oscar Dalo (Elo 2464) of Cebu.

Paragua and Laylo got stuck at 3.0 points and dropped to a share of 34th place in the 144-man field. Tied with them were countryman FM Wesley So and NM Rolando Nolay, who beat their respective foes to clinched 101 Vinay Bhat of the US and Indian Senior Asst Defense of Italy. NM Marlon Bayona also c

Interia, Villena clinch crowns

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ALABANG-MONTILLA BOWLING ASSOCIATION-Jack Jansen and Mikki Amy Villena displayed consistency and poise to capture crowns in the men's and women's senior masters division overall Thursday in the 38th PBC Bowlers International Open Tenpin Bowling at the Greenhills Bowling Center.

Jansen rolled four of 220-190-200-221-201-226-207-190-225-190-9 come up with a total of 2261 pinfalls, leaving Filipe's from Bro. Noy and Thilo Dyson's Erik Abrantes, who settled for second and third places, respectively.

Yang had 2113 on scores of 171-192-199-208-231-195-197-200-179-166, while Abrantes [illegible] 2099 on 224-179-224-216-219-213-194-208-166-279-163-267 to the tourney for bowlers 50 years old and above.

Villena finished the Ladies side with a 2072 total after finishing the block with a 224-192-204-179-214-202-179-202-224-182 to Hilda Robles of PBA had 204-200-179-164-168-170-199-154-205-163 for 1962.

Former World Cup champion and Asian Games medal-gold winner Rosy Cee settled for third place with 1946 on [illegible] 190-191-182-173-167-224-182-187-204-204.

Action resumes today at the same venue with Jason Tsoi (300-60 Season Individual out of a running debut Thursday night to snag second place in the Ladies Open Masters qualifying.

The entry check-up the standings at the rolled 2222-2212-194-220-204-202-202-202 and 2003. Aaron Tsoi (300-60 Season Individual out of a running debut Thursday night to snag second place in the Ladies Open Masters qualifying.

The entry check-up the standings at the rolled 2222-2212-194-220-204-202-202-202 and 2003. Aaron Tsoi (300-60 Season Individual out of a running debut Thursday night to snag second place in the Ladies Open Masters qualifying.

Jess Cisneros, reigning IBAG masters champion, remains the leader with a 254-30 average, followed by Jesse Bautista (222), Apple Gonzalez (220), Jay Cabrera (219), Elmer Pilapil (220), Dir Rosario, Charlie Antonio (220), and Glenna Jo (220).

Speedo novice swim meet

MANILA, Philippines — Speedo will be holding their own in the Speedo Junior Invitational Swimming Championships, sanctioned by the Philippine Columbian Association, Phil Cliber, Pinoy Barolo. The event is organized by the Bay Leaders Swim School and presented by Speedo, Philippine Columbian Association, Phil Cliber, Mizuno and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. But speedo all swimmers who have not competed in any other club, inter-school, inter-region interscoring competition or any competition sanctioned by the Philippine Swimming Inc. (PSI). For the full list of the events for the Speedo Junior Invitational Swimming Championships, for details call 889-7982, 889-8001, 8917-709-8000/7480. For more details and entry forms, please visit the website at www.swimdancecorpinc.com.

SPORTSWATCH

Handslapping non-master chess

[illegible] Chess Championship started in prior to the ongoing main event now on-going 11 September with the only registrant to the event organized by the Manila Bulletin Chess Association former Carlos Michelle Macabe Cuenca, Jan Marlon Abe Macalo, Gino Elizabeth, Debbie Flores, Jerry Roman Dennis Jan Jose, Jan Dayle Jr. and Ryan Gold. National Chess Federation of the Philippines director and international arbiter organizer Eddie Bonifacio said the event will follow the Swiss system handslapping. Contact Bob (632) 4000 and Jonathan Flores at (0917) 8146870.

JVC Open registration ends

[illegible] JVC OPEN MEMBERS CHAMPIONSHIP PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO [illegible] at the Philippine Columbian Association Building. Interested participants may contact Jonathan Flores at 0917-8146870. Entry forms may also be downloaded from the event's website and may be mailed through the fax at 884-0000 and 888-8888. The organizers will hold a series of qualifiers in various destinations from June 20 to July 3 at Pinoymundo.

World Slasher Cup II June 13

THE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION CUP (PCC) RETURNS TO THE ARANETA Coliseum on June 13, 10 a.m.! The International tournament is expected to be closely fought between members of the undefeating game from the United States and the Philippines. Challengers from the United States will be led by Reggie Bonnen, 2006 World Slasher champion from Georgia, Johnny Moore of San Antonio, Texas and Jason Kenney of Jacksonville, Florida. The Philippines will be backed up by 10-time Asian champion Efren Bata Reyes, Dennis Orcollo and Mike Sigalet. Other members Bill Incoso, Bobby Caneso and Tommy Manalo of Bacoor.

70 fights at Las Piñas Coliseum

TOP BANTAM CONTENDERS AND BRUISING WOMEN'S BOUTS ARE SET TO [illegible] with their counterparts from Metro Manila when the second 6-card show of the year at Las Piñas Coliseum. The 70-fight program starts at 7 p.m. Saturday. Organizers of DMD-only video are also anticipating bouts for the Bantam Division. Also in store are Caroline Cordero Association of the Philippines to make his return [illegible] Cordero Association of the Philippines to make his return [illegible] Cordero Association of the Philippines to make his return [illegible]

KUZNETSOVA 6-3 HARDENNE 6-4

Kuznetsova, Henin-Hardenne set title clash

PARIS—SWISS CLOSE SECOND, SO FAST reaching her first Grand Slam semifinal at 17, that perhaps Petrova Maldonado just wasn't quite ready to win it.

Closing in on a third consecutive open at Roland Garros, Sharapova served for the match against 2004 US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, and later saw two match points thanks to the unforced forehand. Each time, the Czech tennis companion crushed, allowing Kuznetsova to come back to win, 6-7, 7-5, (5), 6-2, on Thursday and reach the French Open final.

Kuznetsova faces Justine Henin-Hardenne, the two-time French Open champion who entered another bouts in the final by taking advantage of Belgian competitor Kim Clijsters' ailment 2007 to win, 6-3, 6-2, Thursday.

"I have a lot of ambition," said Henin-Hardenne, the Roland Garros champion in 2003 and 2005. "Beating Kim is special, but I want just today. I can take a third French Open and that means a lot."

It would be tough to blame Sharapova for thinking ahead when it was her turn to serve while leading 5-4 in the second set. A little more than 7½ hours in, and all she needed was four points to put it away.

"You kind of figure, 'If I win this game, I'm in the finals,'" Sharapova admitted. "But I don't think I was necessarily worse or started thinking or anything. I still lost 30-0."

"I just have to take my experience from this and, you know, figure it out next time."

That, in a nutshell, is what Kuznetsova did. The Russian let match points slip away at the French Open each of the past two years, losing in the eventual champion to the fourth-round Anastasia Myskina in 2004, and Justine Henin-Hardenne in 2005.

Sharapova "got a little bit nervous. I know how it feels because I've been there, in her position, so many times," said Kuznetsova, a comparative veteran at 20 who's worked with a psychologist to control such pitfalls.

Sharapova bolted 92 winners in the first two sets—20 more than Kuznetsova had the entire match—and showed why many consider her an emerging star.

Sharapova, who bounced off former No. 1 Venus Williams and current No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo, has been compared to Maria Sharapova because of their age, their work with tennis guru Nick Bollettieri in Florida, their fair strokes, and the endorsement opportunities that have some think may. If Sharapova's going to join Sharapova as a Grand Slam title winner, it'll have to be another time. AP

La Salle lady footballers test Irok FC

DEFENDING WOMEN'S CHAMPION DE LA Salle University enters the semifinals of Irok Basketball Club in one of the featured matches today in the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship at the FAMAC Gym in La Salle Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

The Lady Archers and the Irok hoopers clash at 4 p.m., right after the men's second semifinals between the Archers and El Shaddai-ada FC set at 3 p.m.

The Marines, one of the powerhouses in Group A of the men's second division, and Xavier Ateneo-HC must beat them at 11 p.m.

In other matches, the University of Asia & the Pacific goes for its first win against Adamson FC at 4 p.m. The UA & P Dragons rallied to a 2-2 draw against Miriam College in the opener.

At 5 p.m., SuperFriends and Rays FC make their debut against each other, after topping the day at 7 p.m. will be the contest between Pasargad, which lost to Philippine Army, 4-6, in the opener, and another division I bet pick Philippine Navy which will also play in first assignment in the tournament sponsored by Adidas and overseen by the National Capital Region Football Association (NCRFA).

Castrale seizes LPGA lead

Terry steps into Nowitzki's role

Mavericks go 1-0 up vs Heat in Finals

DALLAS—WHEN DIRK Nowitzki struggles, so do the Dallas Mavericks—usually.

Game 1 of the NBA finals was a good time to make an exception.

The German-born forward made only four of 14 shots Thursday and scored 16 points, his second-lowest of the postseason, and was shut out in the fourth quarter.

"You didn't see the real Dirk tonight," coach Avery Johnson said.

Luckily for Dallas, a big game from Jason Terry and some terrific defense helped the Mavericks beat the Miami Heat, 99-90.

"It's a team game," said Nowitzki, who was an active part of a defensive effort that held the Heat to 12 points in the fourth quarter. "We were at a team and play defense as a team."

Josh Howard's offense was pretty much a no-show, too. The versatile forward shot 5-of-14 for 13 points. He Dallas to win without either of its top two scorers having a good night consistently leaders until Jason Kidd chipped in.

"We know guys are going to go through stretches when the ball doesn't fall in," teammate Jerry Stackhouse said. "But they did other things. They competed on the defensive end; both of them had double-figure rebounds."

The Mavs were outlasted seven straight minutes between fourth quarter baskets—a drought of six minutes and 53 seconds—per Chris defense was so good in that stretch that Dirk had only shrunk by one point. Stackhouse had the six-footing basket with 1:02 left, then got to work up the drawn on for defibbed outmost of this last half-minute.

Celebration

When time ran out, Nowitzki just hit forward on the back, then put his arms up in celebration. It was only the third time in 13 postseason games that he wasn't Dallas' leading scorer. It hadn't happened since Terry scored 32 in Game 4 of the second round series against San Antonio—six years ago. Terry had 32 against this time.

"They made me put ball on floor and get ball out of my hands," Nowitzki said. "But we played well defensively and Jason made shots and carried us all game."

Nowitzki had 10 rebounds, three assists and four misses.

His scoring woes was no when he missed consecutive shots early in the first quarter, including one of his few sweet and on an off ball in a 3-pointer. That would've been his first for the first half except he a 22-footer he nailed in the second quarter ended.

"I still had some good looks, but I never really found my rhythm," said Nowitzki, who came in averaging 26.4 points this postseason and was two games removed from a 50-point effort against Phoenix.

Despite commanders leading him the ball—"We wanted Dirk to get going a little bit in the hour he was benching," Terry said—the Heat let Nowitzki to merge come midway through the third quarter.

After committing a hard foul on Dwyane Wade, Nowitzki came down and hit a go-ahead 3-pointer to give Dallas put the Mavs ahead for good.

Punk

Nowitzki hit another 3 soon after, then had a steal. But on the next possession, he missed a turnaround jumper against right defender from James Posey and never look runs his feet, failing to make another basket.

Although he was 6-for-3 in the fourth quarter, it wasn't all bad. He became a thousandth of Dirk of Dirk led to points.

"We got the first one out of the way," Nowitzki said. "Now we can make some adjustments, look at some film." AP

TERRY: Top scorer

Tejada slowly recovering

IN HUDDLE

Barth Cotta

COMEBACK TO EXPECTATIONS, '06 Pilot Ismo not in the Philippines was not lifted during the Pilot Asia Congress and elections held in Kansas days ago.

However, SMF president Joey Lina who attended the congress, has assured us that it's still a matter of time.

Two months, more or less.

According to Joey, a resolution he has addressed to Pilot Asia seeking the lifting of the IOP ban has been unanimously approved and signed by the 16 member nations of Asia.

This development alone is a breakthrough, said the former senator.

The signed resolution will next be tackled by the Pilot Central Board which convenes this August in Saitama, Japan, where the World Basketball Championships will be staged. The Central Board will make the final decision.

* * *

I condemned that before Joey left for Kuwait, the SMF board met to map out plans, should the ban be lifted.

From what I gathered, the board was inclined to rescind the Memorandum of Agreement forged with the PBA some years back, on the grounds that the league has affiliated itself with Filipinas Basketball, an association formed to replace the SMF which continues to be recognized by the Pilot.

The lifting of the ban will enable the SMF to send a team to compete in Pilot-sanctioned tournaments like the Pilot Asia Championship (formerly ABC), the Pilot Asia Club Championship and the Stanka.

* * *

Newly elected daughter president Maria Raymundo, former Pasig Mayor who held the same sports portfolio some years back, was one of the featured guests when I attended a SOSOP in Ramayan session some weeks ago.

But since I arrived late for the forum, I couldn't clearly make out the exact issue or issues plaguing Maria to and The Amphil.

The way I understand it, Maria was urged by the Amphil board to resolve problems in an amicable manner with Jeep and avoid the need to go to court.

Before he gave his nod to the board however, Maria said he met with POC president Peping Cojuangco to seek his blessing, which he got. Maria said Peping went see POC official Bebe Bellasco to observe the conduct of elections.

But soon after he was installed as the successor to Mary Ang Pilay, Maria was surprised to hear that the POC board of arbitration had declared the Amphil election null and void.

Now the POC wants to hold another election, urging Maria to peacefully step aside to give way to Jesse Henri Dadlee, godfather of the men and women's softball teams in that year's SEA Games.

Breaking his ground, Maria flatly refused, saying that he will fight all the way. He was still as enraged when I talked with him over the phone the other day. He said he is declaring war.

Maria's story sounds very familiar, doesn't it?

* * *

After weeks of silence, we finally get an update on the condition of Pureboob super flyweight Tejada whose family has exercised the influx of visitors in the hospital.

According to PFC governor Bene Padilo, Yagyagui has been experiencing involuntary movements in his legs which, according to the doctors, is a good sign.

Mong Pardo said Gagguio might undergo rehab therapy in the United States or he could fly over to Bangkok.

This is to avoid or at least alleviate depression which usually afflicts patients going through a lengthy convalescence.

* * *

Allan Caidic's biographical book titled "My Life After Caidic: The Biggest Man" will be launched on June 15, 16 in Subic, at The National Bookstore at the Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong.

Three other special launches have been scheduled: June 17 at the Old Farmhouse in Cebu; June 23, 108 Manila on June 24 and 108 Megamall on June 25. Allan will be there to autograph the books.

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SPORTS

Toyota Otis eyes 2-0 lead

By Jeannice W. Poyo

FOR COACH LIEW ALAS, THERE WAS NO TIME TO CELEBRATE Toyota's first victory.

Minutes after downing the Manila Metros, this was already anticipating the Shoe Mart Centers to come out strong in Game 2 of the PBL Unity Cup championship series.

"Tonight's Wet and EAT Tenders didn't play their usual game, we have to prepare for the two," he noted. "They'll be motivated. We know they can easily play well, they're both pro-bound."

But the Spirits have their own formidable core when they shoot for an imposing 2-0 lead versus the Pretenders in their best-of-three title round at 7 p.m. today at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

TE-Ambos Devosas, favored to win the Most Valuable Player plum in the 2 p.m. Advancement Awards, failed to log in his usual numbers due to early foul woubles in Game 1.

GAMES TODAY (at Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
2 p.m.—Advancement Awards
Toyota Otis vs. Shoe Mart Centers (Game 2 finals)

But the Spirits got plenty of support from Aaron Aboy and Christian Cornelio in the second half.

Alas admitted he liked what he saw in the Spirits' convincing 103-81 victory in the series opener last Thursday.

"That's the discipline we have to maintain," he said. "We have to stay focused all the time. Our mistake is not ours."

In contrast, the Pretenders' offensive game was nowhere to be found. With Ato and Tenorio toppling the team's struggles, the young crew shot a horrendous 26 percent on the floor and made only 1/6 of 20 attempts at the free throw line.

"It was embarrassing," said Pretenders coach Jorge Gallent. "But, I'm confident the boys can bounce back. I have great trust in my players."

RYAN Jarasa of Harbour Centre tries to dribble past the gutsy defense of Toyota Otis' JP Artates. EDGARDO

Franz keeps post as Archers coach

By Jeannice W. Poyo

RETAINING THE MEN'S HEAD COACHING JOB in Ateneo University didn't phase Franz Pumaren.

Pumaren was reappointed as head coach of the men's basketball team at the Quezon City-based high school during a press conference yesterday.

"The administration reinstated coach Pumaren last week," Ateneo athletic director Joel Mendoza said yesterday.

"There were coaches committed, I think as of last February. We submitted names (of candidates)."

Pumaren, who stepped down as head coach of the Archers following a disappointing 6-8 finish in the UAAP last season, said he was glad to be back.

"It's a blessing to be back," he said. "I'm happy to be back in the Ateneo community. I'm happy to be back with the players. I'm happy to be back with the coaching staff. It's a blessing to be back."

Pumaren, who led the Archers to the UAAP championship in 1988, said he will be looking to improve on his performance in his second stint with the Blue Eagles.

"I'm looking forward to improving on my performance," he said. "I'm looking forward to improving on the performance of the team. I'm looking forward to improving on the performance of the players."

Pumaren, who was also appointed as head coach of the Philippine Under-19 squad, said he will be looking to improve on the performance of the Philippine Under-19 squad.

"I'm looking forward to improving on the performance of the Philippine Under-19 squad," he said. "I'm looking forward to improving on the performance of the Philippine Under-19 squad."

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"I'm looking forward to improving on the performance of the Philippine Under-19 squad," he said. "I'm looking forward to improving on the performance of the Philippine Under-19 squad."

Larios steps up training for Pacquaio fight

OSCAR LARIOS OF MEXICO, WHO FIGHTS Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao on July 2 at the Arizona Coliseum, yesterday stepped up his training at Tokyo's Tokiwa gym and appeared in good shape although a bit overweight for their scheduled 130-pound fight for the World Boxing Council International super featherweight crown.

Since arriving from Mexico a week ago, Larios has already sparred with 122-pounder Tsuboshi Hirokazu and WBC fourteen champion Nonoto Hasegawa, a southpaw like Pacquiao, he Fox reported.

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SATURDAY Special

E-mail at saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rita P. Avila

Jennifer Aniston becomes a bankable film star

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN BRAD Pitt left his wife Jennifer Aniston for Angelina Jolie, movie fans felt sad for Jennifer and hoped that she would quickly recover from the break-up.

Jennifer was eventually able to come to terms with what happened to her on a personal level, but her career was something else again.

From her hit sitcom, "Friends," she moved over to the movies, but her first few starrers failed to arouse the viewing public's curiosity and enthusiasm. Was Jennifer fated to failure at the box office?

New lease on life

Last week, her movie career got a new lease on life when her latest starrer, "The Break-Up," premiered a strong $28 million on its opening weekend, and ended up on top of the US box office.

Even better, it screened some very impressive titles—"X-Men: The Last Stand" was a very big hit on its first weekend, but didn't do as well as "The Break-up" on its second, so Jennifer's starrer can be described as a "giant killer."

In third place was the popular animated feature, "Over the Hedge," and another blockbuster, "The Da Vinci Code," was fourth—a huge drop after its stunning first weekend gross.

Dream

By virtue of the very good showing of "The Break-up" at the box office, Jennifer has finally achieved her dream of becoming a bankable film star.

The question is, why did "The Break-up" break the bank, while her previous film starrers failed to fly to the continuation of movie fans?

There's no denying that the movie's title immediately arouses interest in audiences because of Jennifer's real-life romance as the hands of her ex-husband and his increasingly beautiful ex-star in "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

They wondered: Would the pain of her own life-story itself see it to a way similar to the screen/ even-marital break-up?

Another positive factor presented itself when rumors spread that Jennifer and her leading man, Vince Vaughn, were making

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE A4)

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Box office doesn't reflect summer of bad flicks

LOS ANGELES—THOSE LAST summer's slate of poorly received Hollywood movies helped lead to the slump at the box office? Think again.

So far, Hollywood's Summer 2006 movies have been mostly panned by critics. Yet, the box office is higher than at the same point last year, reversing last summer's slump.

"When it comes to summer blockbusters, most of those movies depend on marketing and, quite frankly, the hype more than the reviews," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

More attention

Dergarabedian cited a long-held myth in Hollywood. That the more attention—usually teenage and college-age youth—pays more attention to promotion and advertising than to critics.

Take a look at the reverses for "The Break-up," which starred Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn as a couple who separate from each other but can't give up their condo.

"Movies have value to call it quits," wrote the Dallas Morning News. "Don't much fun," said the Washington Post.

The critics's word on "The Da Vinci Code" was worse. Newsweek said it was "both overstuffed and underwhelming." The action flick, "X-Men: The Last Stand," did marginally better, but like the others, it drilled critics at the box office.

"X-Men" is a huge hit with more than $170 million at the domestic box office and "The Da Vinci Code" is a hair behind at $171 million. Overseas, it has racked up another $413 million.

Figures cite many reasons for the disconnect—including that older and less-frequent moviegoers read reviews. Kids do not.

Younger audiences hear about a film through friends. Increasingly, the Internet has been a key arena for reaching kids.

Reviews

But, take heart, movie critics, you still matter. Good reviews are a must for low-budget films and those competing for awards. That was true for the 2005 race-relations drama, "Crash." It played in theaters last summer and earned strong reviews. It sold only $54 million worth of tickets at the domestic box office, but won the best film Oscar.

"There is definitely a place for reviews...and (their absence will be," said Bergarabedian.

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Notable flicks in moviegoing marathon

By Nito P. Aviso

IF THERE'S ONE THING WE LOVE more than the legitimate stage, it's the cinema and its ability to virtually transport us to exotic worlds and parallel realities. The film medium can also explore man's rare experiences as he struggles to survive in his complex society.

Our recent Weekend filled in Singapore allowed us to indulge in our favorite pastimes: Watching movies—and great ones, at that, after a tiring performance, we would "decompress" by catching late-night (and early morning) screenings at the newly-opened Cathay cineplex—some of them even dubbed as "midnight" shows! Here are just two of the films we caught during that dizzying, exhilarating moviegoing frenzy:

KENDRA: Tragedy rocks Darlene Love fans' marathon sale.

Complicated

Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne's "The Child (L'Enfant)," winner of the top Golden Palm award at last year's Cannes, is a compelling morality tale about two couples, Bruno and Sonia (Jeremie Renier and Deborah Francois, respectively), who live off the latter's social-security benefits and loan (with the latter's consent) out her baby. Their world gets more complicated when she gives birth to their baby—whom, without Jo-ann's approval, Bruno sells for money!

"Hanuman Barmard" tells the story of three generations of women—all portrayed by Zyi Zhang—from 1930s Shanghai to the '70s, as they love, lose and overcome difficulties.

ZHANG: Plays three characters in "Journey Women."

Others too vapid for its own good, the filmbooks of this performances from the luminous Chinese ingenue, a cheaper high-wire act she accomplishes with passion and fervor.

But, it's co-star Joan Chen who steals scenes everytime she appears on the screen. The movie, though, won Zhang the Golden Booster award for best actress, and capped the fantastic love price at the Shanghai International Film Festival in 2004.

Yes, Dr. Ramonsang's sexy, moody and really atmospheric "Sakit (Sick) Wartes," which opened the recently-Bangkok International Film Festival before it made a splash in Berlin, may have flaws in its narrative, but it raises those to its narrative, but it raises those to its narrative, but it raises those to

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Revilla wants to bring back action movies' glory days

By Jocelyn Valle

ACTION MOVIES used to rule the box office. In fact— in the heyday of action films, most actors aspired to become action stars. A number of them succeeded by starting in biopics of celebrated men in uniform or notorious gangsters.

Then came the dawn of the PCIJ-DND version, and commercial copies of hollywood flicks with huge explosions and complicated fight scenes flooded the market. There was no way local film outfits could match those big-budget productions. Moreover, they couldn't stop video pirates from peddling illegally reproduced blockbuster films, as their numbers soon dwindled.

Politics

A handful of action stars took up roles cudgels by positioning themselves as nationalists. But, many of them have turned to comedy—or politics—to stay in the limelight. "That's the reason why we decided a big action movie to my latest movie, 'Kapag Tumibok ang Puso,'" even if it's really a comedy," points out Bong Revilla Jr.

He is referring to the tie-ups "Marine" confirmation between his character and co-star RAN delos Alas.

In his opinion, "Magkaiba kami ng action movie pala si Smokey ng mga tao na mga genre na dating gusto noong dekada—kasi palagong drama at comedy ang mas maganda ngayon."

Revilla's chosen project is to get his action-star friends, particularly the embattled Philip Salvador, to come in one big action movie.

Script

"Sinubukan ang isang script," he adds. "Hindi dadalhin ang mahal ang production. Kasi sa takot ko pa lang ng mga artista, baka mambo na ang hanap pa."

When we ask him for his thoughts about Philip, who faces estate charges filed by a former Cavite, Bong shakes his head. "Ang masasabi ko lang, hindi namin siya pinabayaan."

Stress-reliever

Meanwhile, the actor-solon says he's leaving for Hong Kong. He grins, "Eh a stress reliever. Para problema sa bisnis. So, 'pag nagbi-taping ako ng sitcom, or I'm shooting scenes for 'Kapag Tumibok ang Puso,' nawawaglit ang stress."

In the movie, Bong even agrees to do a breakdance sometime! He points out, "Oha sa mga, kung sasayaw siya siguro ng sexy, ghagawa ko. Pinaalis 'yun ng isang artista!"

"BENCHWARMERS." Underdogs take the upper hand.

Revenge of the geeks

By Nestor Torre

FOR EXCHEQUER, BELIEVE IT or not, plays the straight man in the Dennis Dugan-directed, Adam Sandler-produced comedy, "The Benchwarmers."

It's a fact that would behind the movie leaves because, if Schneider is cool, then you can guess just how uncool everybody else in this movie is!

Sidelines

Then again, "The Benchwarmers" is about an uncool people—the dorks, nerds and geeks who are always bullied and who generally spend their time on the sidelines, warming the bench.

This being a sports movie of sorts, these underdogs it's simple over the athletically gifted bullies in the end.

There's just something a little off about the fact that the underdogs are grown men in their 30s, and that the bad guys are 12-year old Little Leaguers, who have manner and bullies another!

Losers' team

Also, the losers' team—constructed by freshmen Jon Schneider's video store clerk Walter (David Spade), and hotdog-picking paper boy Clark (Jon Heder)—are a bunch of losers.

The plot is predictable. Jon finds away for Jacks and nerds, young and old, to coexist: a kid from being bullied by the Little Leaguers; he and his pals (Jackie and Clark) play against the bullies and, surprisingly, win.

It comes on that the errand kid's dad is billionaire Mel Schlemmer (Jon Lovitz), who himself was once a pulard on dork.

Schlemmer proposes a plan: The three older guys fight the four kids' baseball teams in the stats. And the winner wins a brand new ballpark.

The three-man Benchwarmers' team is created, and nerds and dweebs everywhere finally have their own team to root for.

Laughter

Yes, moms and dads, your eight-year-old will be screaming with laughter at the projectile-vomiting jokes and gross-gag that involves bodily functions.

Thankfully, the movie is quite short. It has a fast pace that allows you to quickly get over the non-funny groan-out stuff. The worst bits that the movie is unreasonably funny, which it is.

You'll probably find yourself chuckling here and there during "The Benchwarmers," but it'll be a dishonest sort of chuckle—a laugh-so-you-don't-cry sort of thing.

With the high prices of movie tickets nowadays, are really willing you don't bring yourself to seeing a few movies if it has from this throwaway comedy.

Jennifer Aniston becomes a bankable film star

From page A21

beautiful music together in real life.

Bolstering those reports was a magazine spread that featured sultry shots of the couple in romantic poses in a private bedroom away from the movie studio. So, viewers were primed to read "actual" romantic feelings in the stars' scenes in "The Break-up."

Some industry analysts also point out that there has had a successful movie career than he, as his lucky streak must have rubbed off on Jennifer, as well.

All of these factors worked in tandem to make "The Break-up" more than the "latest" film it was initially believed to be. Lucky you—an unexpected hit is the best revenge!

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SATURDAY Special

His name is Craig, Daniel Craig

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST OCTOBER, DANIEL CRAIG was named the ninth actor to play James Bond, after Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, George Lazenby and Pierce Brosnan.

Some fans of the profitable film franchise expressed disappointment because Craig has blond hair, unlike most actors who have played the super agent, who have darker hair. In their consternation, they have dubbed Craig "James Blond."

Interpretation

But, other people have quickly come to Craig's defense, including four former Bond actors (Connery, Dalton, Moore and Brosnan). They point out that Craig is a better actor than most of them, and should bring the role an interpretation that's thoroughly different and new.

Craig won the nod of the producers of the James Bond film series over many other contenders, some of them already stars in their own right. Why did he trounce the stiff competition? What qualities does he possess that they don't?

Producer Barbara Broccoli believes that Craig is the perfect choice for the new James Bond because he can give the traditionally suave character a grittier edge.

Another source

She is sure of her choice that, after his first film as Bond, "Casino Royale," he will shoot another 007 movie right away.

Actor Judi Dench has also leaped to the defense of her "Casino Royale" co-star: "He's a fine actor," she insists. "He brings something new and edgy to the role."

Pierce Brosnan succeeds the movies "I think he will have the last laugh at the end of it."

Their confidence in Craig is based on mid-evidence of his talents as an actor, as only 37 years old, Craig moved from Chester to London to join the National Youth Theater. Later, he studied at the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

In 2003, he was nominated for a London Evening Standard Theater award for best actor for his performance in "A Kumbers."

Recognition

Craig's film career started in 1992 with "The Power of One." He gained wider recognition in the UK with an important role in the acclaimed BBC drama special, "Our Friends in the North," in 1996.

In "Love, Grief, Youth [and] Loathing," he played Angelina Jolie's rival, the other film outings include "The Road to Perdition" with Tom Hanks; "Sylvia" with Gwyneth Paltrow; "Munich" and "Enduring Love."

Trophy

Not that last film, Craig won the best actor trophy at the European Film Awards, and was cited as British Actor of the Year (2004) at the London Critics Circle Film Awards.

Clearly, Daniel Craig is no pushover in the acting department. In fact, he could be the most gifted disruption to ever play James Bond.

Sardonic humor

But, will he fit the role of the movie world's top secret agent? Does he have the flair, charisma and sardonic humor that have characterized James Bond through the decades? That $64,000 question will be answered once Craig's first James Bond film is shown later this year.

CRAIG. Can plus his suave up a grittier edge.

WILLIAM. Nothing pejorative about the term.

Sizing up the 'bakya' crowd

By Bobi Cornelio

WE PLAY THAT KIND OF music because we cater to the mass," quickly declared a mall's junior executive when I complained about the (very) loud music incessantly playing in their establishments. "It's much too loud and deafening—it is noise pollution!," I insisted.

"The mass called for that kind of music!,"

I asked for clarification. I didn't think so.

In truth, mall denizens aren't consulted about the songs played in shopping centers. It's the executives who choose the repertoire. Thus, they blame it on the taste of the mass. The victims become the guilty.

This is no different from movie producers who churn out haphazard productions, then blame their films' low quality on supposed bakya taste.

So, I give my lecture: "There is no bakya audiences, only bakya producers. Producers oppress the stories to be filmed; they hire the writers, directors and actors. They even

(CONCLUDED) A2-3

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABREN

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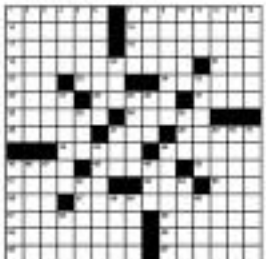

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

9	6	2				3	5	8
8				3				2
4								9
			8		1			
	9					7		
			2		5			
3								7
2				8				3
1	7	9				8	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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7	1	2	9	6	5	4	8	3
2	8	3	7	5	4	9	1	6
6	5	1	3	9	6	7	2	4
9	4	7	6	2	1	8	3	5
3	2	4	8	7	6	1	5	9
8	6	9	5	1	2	3	4	7
1	7	5	4	3	9	2	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sizing up the 'bakya' crowd

Turn to page A&E-4

decide on the publicity deal that they think will make them success big hits."

Cheap

Decades ago, the late Lamberto V. Avellana, National Artist for Theater and Film, admitted using the term "bakya" audience. In modern parlance, bakya means bulsyr. It also means cheap and uncultured.

Avellana claimed there was nothing pejorative about the term. He described such movies as such because viewers in the audience consist of common pagpapalayaw sa mata (feasts for the eyes).

Success

In private chats, a movie's financial success was determined by the number of wooden shoes that entered the establishment. The louder the sound of those shoes, the greater the box-office success of the film.

Over the years, however, the term bakya has become synonymous with bad taste—as an audience who can't appreciate good films. Why? Because they lack intelligence and proper exposure to culture, they are mentioned to have false taste—filmgoers who patronize local director's overused soap ingredients: Gore-serving, stilted dialogue and bad filmmaking. But producers supplied what these people demanded.

Taste

Producers claim they are trapped by the taste of the bakya crowd. But, busy producers are merely coming up with excuses for the inferior films they produce—to cover up their own bad taste and lack of artistry and education.

Little respect

So, when they complain about the deeds of the local movie industry, the buck it really flutes. They've brought it upon themselves by showing little respect for the audience that provides their hefty remuneration.

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Shall we dance?

By Rito P. Asilo

"Take the Lead"
D: Liz Friedlander
S: Antonio Banderas, Alfre Woodard, Dante Basco

AFTER BALLROOM DANCE INSTRUCtor Pierre Dulaine (Antonio Banderas) witnesses a student smash a high school principal's car with a golf club, he wades into the urban—in the vibrant-to-the-point-frenetic Bronx—and announces his intention to teach ballroom dancing to students in the detention class, which includes the automobile-wrecking student.

Despite homeroom sets, unruly rap-and-rock mini-weirdo punks (including Hi-Arts actor, Jason Boyce), and a perplexed PD, Pierre slowly breaks his students' resistance to traditional dance forms like the cha-cha, waltz, foxtrot, and tango accompanied by songs by updating the grooves of contemporary pop and hip-hop music into the unpredictable brew generally regarded by his successors wards as "uncool." Imagine George Gershwin and Lena Horne dabbing to hip-hop music!

If these scenes weren't based on a true story, you'd find yourself cringing at the implausibility of the film's premise, or thinking that the guy is either delusional or raring for his closeup with. But, as they say, fact is stranger than fiction, and there were still tapes given to Pierre (upload times—without the gold dust, of course).

With the cutest Banderas to top his ex, director Liz Friedlander busts her dance-floor action with short dramatic sketches of Dulaine's students, but glosses over the personal details of Dulaine himself, whose wife died from cancer five years earlier.

When you have a seemingly selfless protagonist like Pierre, you wonder about the motivation that drives his actions—a crucial element of the story that we'll get too much attention. Nevertheless, the resulting homeward movie is more an affirmation of the kindness of a stranger (the latter) than an examination of his soul, so you are forced to take him at face value. He is a nice guy with good intentions. Period.

Like other will-be teachers-to-the-rescue-of-lost-students-themed pictures (Music of the Heart, Mr. Holland's Opus, "Stand and Deliver" and, well, "Dangerous Minds"), in reality-outcomes abound. And like films would-be (good/bad/evil) directors make, their eventful if predictable change of heart just in time for the awarding finale, which, while nowhere near "Beauty Ballroom" caliber, is executed with full throttle inspirational bombast.

Clothed in the guise of artistic license and liberal by his "life is dance" philosophy, the movie—like many other Hollywood productions based on true events—weaves fact and fiction together to prepare its heroic-hero, sans-fear narrative.

After all, the students of the real Pierre Dulaine weren't really unruly, jaded high school-age young men, but down-on-their-luck grade-school students—but they wouldn't be very interesting in the realm of box-office-conscious mainstream filmmaking, would they?

Despite its excesses and weaknesses, "Take the Lead" dispenses valuable lessons about facing life's challenges. For people who constantly face life-altering situations, there are good choices, and settling is by no means one of them. But, it's up to them to find the suitable rhythm and groove to swing to the crazy, merry drums called life.

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GALLERIA

1 THE DA VINCI CODE – THX 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00	6 CHAOS 12:30 3:40 6:50 7:30 10:00
2 CARS 11:40 2:10 4:50 7:20 10:00	7 X-MEN 3 12:40 3:50 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 THE INSIDE MAN 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00	8 ALL ABOUT LOVE 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 TAKE THE LEAD 11:40 2:10 4:50 7:20 10:00	9 MANAY PO 12:50 3:00 5:20 7:50 10:00
5 THE OMEN 10:00 3:40 6:10 7:30 10:00	10 THE BENCHWARMERS 1:50 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

ERMITA

1 THE OMEN 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	
2 MANAY PO 12:00 2:30 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 TAKE THE LEAD 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
3 THE INSIDE MAN 12:50 3:20 5:50 7:30 10:00	8 CARS 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	7 X-MEN 3 11:00 1:10 3:30 5:30 7:40 9:50

METRO EAST

1 THE INSIDE MAN 1:10 3:40 6:10 8:30	5 MANAY PO 11:20 1:30 4:10 6:40 9:00
2 CARS 1:00 3:40 6:00 8:50	6 THE OMEN 10:00 12:30 3:00 5:20 8:00
3 TAKE THE LEAD 12:30 3:20 6:20 9:00	7 X-MEN 3 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:10
4 THE DA VINCI CODE 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:30	8 ALL ABOUT LOVE 11:30 1:50 4:30 6:50 9:15

NOVALICHES

1 THE DA VINCI CODE	4 CARS
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE	5 MANAY PO
3 X-MEN 3	6 THE OMEN

CINESQUARE MALABON | **PIONEER**

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE	1 THE INSIDE MAN
2 X-MEN 3	2 CARS
3 RESERVE	3 TAKE THE LEAD
4 RESERVE	4 THE OMEN

STA. ROSA | **LIPA**

1 CARS	1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE	2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 THE DA VINCI CODE	3 SILENT HILL
4 MANAY PO	4 MANAY PO
5 AQUAMARINE / X-MEN 3	5 X-MEN 3

DASMARINAS | **ANGELES**

1 MANAY PO	1 THE OMEN
2 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 X-MEN 3
3 X-MEN 3 / AQUAMARINE	3 MANAY PO
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE	4 CARS
5 CARS	

IMUS | **STARMILLS**

1 THE DA VINCI CODE	1 CARS
2 MANAY PO	2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 THE OMEN	3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 X-MEN 3	4 MANAY PO
5 ALL ABOUT LOVE	5 X-MEN 3
6 THE BENCHWARMERS	6 THE OMEN

BACOLOD | **ILOILO**

1 AQUAMARINE	1 X-MEN 3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE	2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 BANDIDAS	3 MANAY PO
4 THE DA VINCI CODE	4 THE DA VINCI CODE
5 X-MEN 3	5 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
6 OVER THE HEDGE	6 RENCARNATION

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STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

Healing with roses

RECENTLY, A FRIEND invited me to attend the healing service of Bro. Carmelo Gotay at the House of Prayer of the Eucharist and Grace in Bulacan.

My friends and I brought other roses, aside the pastors I sat in the chapel and went through the glass window behind the altar. The towering statue of the Blessed Mother.

A sweet lassy on her right hand, and a brown cloth capular on the left. The right was empty.

Service

Holy Mass started at 12:30 p.m., officiated by Fr. Rodel Pastor. Right after the healing service of Bro. Carmelo began. He laid his hands on people's foreheads and on their palms. When he placed his hand on my head and put some petals on my chest, I felt suddenly appeased on the petals.

An expression of amazement engulfed the chapel. I was overcome by a sense of awe and wonder. "Is this true?" I asked myself. I did not have an explanation to what just happened.

Bro. Carmelo said: "More than the petals, it's the inner conviction and forgiveness that will start the healing process."

Replica

I left the site feeling elated. The church has a small museum and a replica of the Holy Grail beside the House of Prayer that reminded me of my visit to Jerusalem.

On June 12, the Mother of Eucharistic and Grace community will celebrate its 25th anniversary. A mass will be held at noon, to be officiated by Bishop Jose Oliveros, Cubao diocesan and Father Rodrigo. The healing service of Bro. Carmelo will immediately follow.

To get there, take the South Expressway to Sucat right at the Bicutan exit. Before the bridge, make a right turn to San Jose del Monte, and proceed straight ahead. Call 0906 497-2763.

E-mail: mandy.navasero@inq.com.ph and 896-6767

BRO. CONTEZ. Physical experience.

Nature of the beast

PEOPLE often think that demonic self-existence different from human beings. In the Bhagavad-gita, the Supreme Person explains that some human beings possess demonic qualities. Here's an explanation:

"Arrogance, pride, anger, conceit, harshness and ignorance—these qualities characterize demonic nature. Transcendental qualities are conducive to liberation, whereas demonic qualities lead to bondage.

"You won't find cleanliness, proper behavior or truth among demons. They have no intelligence and engage in unbeneficial endeavors meant to destroy the world.

Gratification

"Demons take shelter in insatiable lust, pride and false prestige. They are attracted by the impermanence of illusion. They believe that gratification of the senses is the prime necessity of human civilization. Thus, their anxiety doesn't end.

"A demonic nature sways people to believe that they are perfect, powerful and happy. They are deluded by ignorance, perplexed by anxiety, and bound by illusion," he followed.

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MALL CINEMAS

1	OMEN 666	2	CARS	3	8 MILE 3
4	ALL ABOUT LOVE	5	THE DA VINCI CODE		

STRATHAM AND PHILIPPE. Mismatched duo.

Action in a flux of 'Chaos'

By Rinaldi Torre

THE JASON STATHAM, SEAN Phillippe, and Wesley Snipes-starrer "Chaos" is because of how/in that you'd enjoy watching—but probably wouldn't watch again. It's not a bad movie, but neither is it brilliant.

Directed by Tony Giglio, the film is a crime thriller featuring a bank heist, mom-why-thats-steal robber fad, by Wesley Snipes in a rare bad-guy role), and some typical mismatched duo. Statham and Phillippe play the odd couple here, the former as recently-suspended veteran detective, Quentin Conners, and the latter as his fresh faced new partner, Shane Dibbler.

Suspension

Yanked back from suspension (the thieves specifically requested for him in his the negotiator), Conners fails to apprehend (the bad guys who, as it turns out, have more than mere thievery in mind. He and Dibbler establish on a continuing chase, where nothing is as it seems.

Prediction and lacking in chemistry between the two leads, "Chaos" underperforms to elevate above mere action by making sort of the Chaos Theory.

Unfortunately, though you think everything's working smoothly while you're watching the movie, you start seeing the cracks in its structure after walking out of the cinema.

There's the fact that a major bank's security doesn't notice the entry of five big, black-clad men who sport sunglasses and tuxpieces, and who supposedly bulky bags. This is just 9/11 America we're talking about, after all.

Essence

The premise of Chaos Theory is that, things that are seemingly random are actually somehow connected to a certain order—that, in fact, chaos doesn't actually exist.

Though Giglio doesn't succeed on the cerebral level, the movie's action is unarguable. It's fast and unpredictable enough to engage your interest, though you probably won't let blood or many by no style or the suspense it cooks up.

As for by stars, Statham is compelling, though his performance is undetermined by the dullness of his character, as usual, Phillippe is convincing in the wooden-faced cop, but his character is equally dull, so it's hard to take him seriously. Snipes as the bad guy doesn't do much and does hardly makes an impact.

Nature

From page A4-1

by lust, anger and the false ego, the demon becomes envious of the Supreme Person.

"The enemies and misbehaviors are the lower among men. They are vast into the ocean of material existence. Gradually, they sink down to the most abominable type of existence.

Gods

"There are three doings that lead to the gates of hell: lust, anger and greed. Every wise man should give them up, because these bring degradation to the soul.

"A man who escapes these pitfalls can work that are conducive to self-realization. Then, he gradually attains the ultimate destination. But, a person who only acts according to his whims will never attain happiness and perfection."

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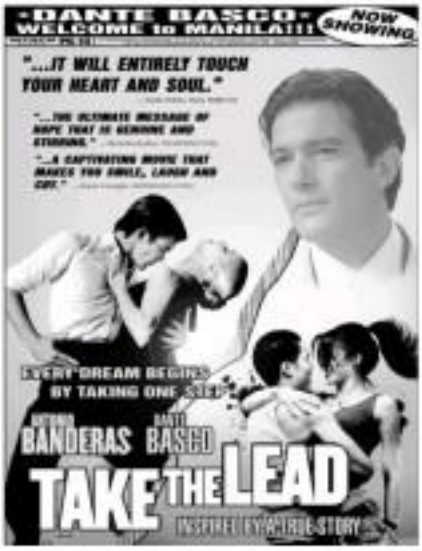

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BUSINESS

Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

Exports jumped 18.7% in April to $3.85B

4-month total shipments up 15.2% to $14.75B

By Michelle V. Rosca

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS GREW 18.7 PERCENT to $3.85 billion in April from a year ago, boosting the country's chances of surpassing its full-year export growth target of 8 percent, as global demand for electronics remained robust.

The brought the January-to-April export figure to $14.75 billion, up 15.2 percent from the same period last year.

Documents from the National Statistics Office showed that exports were led by electronics, accounting for 61.2 percent of exports, which grew 18.7 percent year-on-year to $2.31 billion in April.

Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning at the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said slow Me-dige growth in exports was likely to be seen for the rest of the year given the increasing demand for electronics in various markets around.

He noted that the country's electronics industry reported a buildup of inventory in the second half due to a possible pick-up in demand especially for the Christmas season.

Arroyo likewise noted positive views made by the US Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), which said demand for consumer electronics would be on an upbeat this year following last year's slowdown.

Aside from electronics, garments likewise gained substantially from an increasing global demand. Exports of garments grew 19.2 percent to $333.44 million in April.

Other top exports during the month were subsidies of refined copper ($199.52 million), coconut oil ($82.68 million), petroleum products ($54.01 million), wood-craft and furniture ($38.68 million), sating sets for vehicles, aircraft and ships ($37 million), batteries ($36.27 million), metal components ($22.08 million), and gold ($20.54 million).

EXPORTS B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

PLDT seals PhilWeb acquisition A2

Net foreign investments up 11.4% in Q1 B10

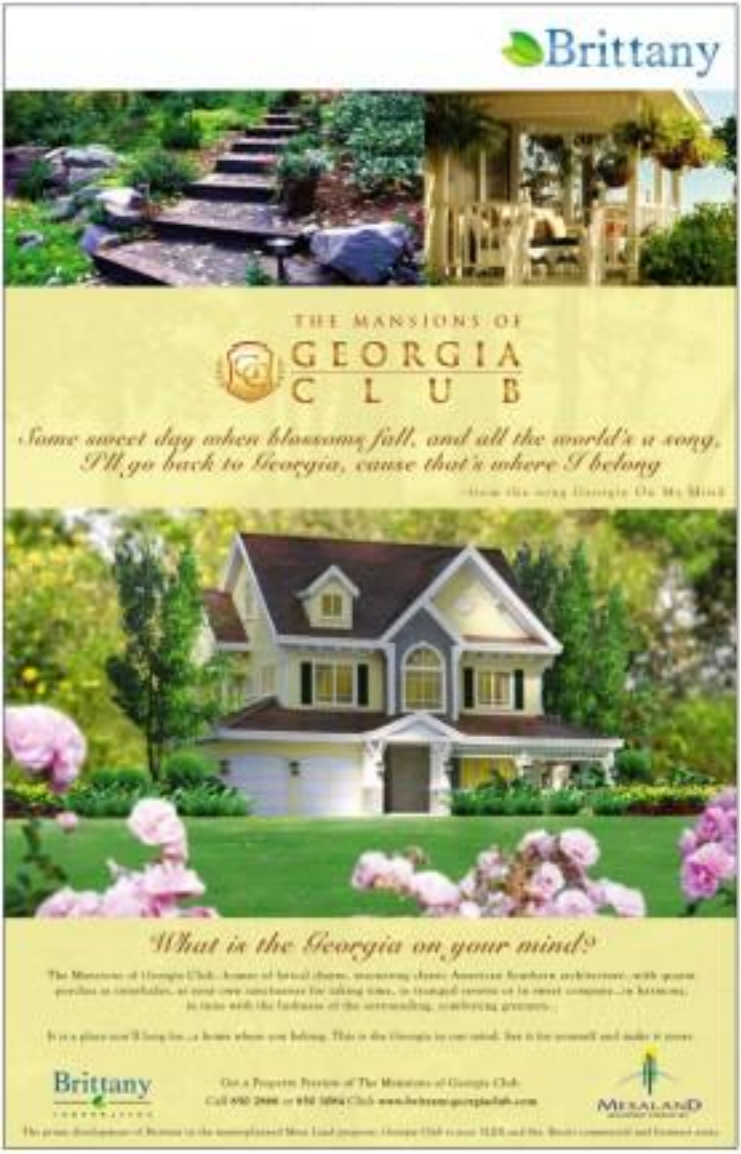
Gov't eyes 11th hour passage of '06 budget B10

CURRENCIES

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Shares end flat



Net portfolio investments hit $78.9M in May

Five-month inflows dropped to $669.8M from $1.82B in '05

By Doris C. Dantao

THE PHILIPPINES MANAGED TO capture $78.9 million in net foreign portfolio inflows in May despite the massive selling of emerging market assets, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The net inflows in local stocks, debt paper and bank products for May, however, was less than the $98.7 million registered last year and the $181.2 million in April.

The cumulative net inflows of "hot money"—so called due to its volatile nature—as of May hit $669.8 million, which paled in comparison to the $1.82 billion recorded in the same period last year.

"Net flows which could have contributed to the net inflows in May included the positive economic and corporate earnings report, the announcement by the BSP of its key policy rates, the largest US pension fund CalPERS' raising of its country's credit rating to investable status and the favorable upgrade by Moody's Investor Service of the country's debt rating outlook to stable," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

He said, however, that the decline in regional markets, the softening of regional currencies including the peso, concerns on the consequences of rising US interest rates and profit-taking by foreign investors hampered the flow of funds.

"Investment funds reportedly avoided emerging markets in general, including the Philippines," Tetangco said.

Based on BSP data, newly registered portfolio investments for May totaled $662.3 million, 72 percent of which were put in shares of stock listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The gross inflows exceeded the total capital repatriations or outflows of $583.7 million.

For the five-month period, foreign portfolio investments totaled $2.62 billion, while outflows amounted to $1.95 billion.

Of the total portfolio investments from abroad, 71 percent went to PSE-listed stocks, 22 percent to peso-denominated government securities and the remainder went to money market instruments and bank deposits.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo witnesses the signing of the lease agreement between Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chairman Felicisimo Salonga (second from right), Armand Arreza and Hubei Xinrui Jing Hui Glass Manufacturing Co. Ltd. chairman Wang Chang Lin (left).

Benpres to sell assets to pay debt

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BENPRES HOLDINGS CORP., THE Zagala company of the Lopez family, plans to pay its $400-million debt in 10 years by selling assets and collecting dividends from its subsidiaries.

Benpres president Angel Ong told stockbrokers yesterday that Benpres has informed its creditors that it expected to receive P13 billion in dividends from key units to power and media to repay its debts.

The dividends will be used to pay $200 million in debt.

In 2005 alone, Benpres received P868 million in dividends from First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC).

Benpres also expects substantial dividends from television network ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. in 2006.

The remaining $200-million debt will be paid through the sale or swap of shares in certain subsidiaries, such as the First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp.

FPHC has shares in Manila North Tollways Corp. and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

Benpres owns 49 percent of FPHC, which in turn owns 67 percent of MVIC, the operator of the 90-kilometer North Luzon Expressway.

Metro Pacific Corp. earlier said it was in discussions with Benpres to buy the latter's 49 percent interest in FPHC.

Ong also said Benpres was open to talks regarding its shares in telecommunications unit Bayan Telecommunications Inc. and cable service provider Beyond Cable.

Benpres owns two-thirds of Beyond Cable, and 98 percent of Bayan Telecommunications Holdings Corp., which in turn owns Bayantel.

Ong also said Benpres was willing to sell its 34.5-percent stake in Rockwell Land Corp.

Liteblue led by former Asiaworks exec to complete due diligence on Benpres by this month.

Negotiations with creditors are expected to start in the third quarter.

Benpres tapped Australia's Butler Rodgers Corporate Advisory (SEA) Pty. Ltd. as its financial adviser.

In 2002, Benpres defaulted on principal and interest payments of its long-term debts.

On the same year, it announced a three-pronged plan called the "Balance Sheet Management Plan" that aimed to cut debt by putting key assets on repay, the debts guaranteed by Benpres, to raise cash through asset sales and to reduce costs by suspending capital investments.

Benpres also said it sold 18.79 million shares of Digitel in May, representing approximately 9.3 percent of Digitel.

Benpres raised P243 million from the sale which will be used for working capital.

Mindanao firm to export to Japan

By Christine A. Saplcar

AN AFFILIATE OF EXPORTER Dinguhit Undersit Philippines Inc., one the country's major business exporters, has been allowed to export organically grown bananas to Japan.

Sogue Highland Organic Inc. banana Inc. said in a statement that its bananas were certified organic by Japanese Agricultural Standards, which enforces organic labeling laws.

"After an inspection of the company's pilot farm in Lanao del Norte, the team composed by the Japanese Agricultural Standards endorsed Ikeda's operations, allowing the company to label their produce as organic Gwanchi bananas," the company said.

Organic agricultural produce managed with the Japanese Agricultural Standards seal, can command premium prices over regular produce in the Japanese market, it added.

Ikeda will make its first shipment of organic bananas to Japan by the middle of next year.

"The trend is to have more and more organic produce, and companies like ours are taking advantage of the growing health consciousness of the Japanese consumers," Ikeda said. "As the rate of both increases, Japan has the highest per capita consumption in the world."

Aside from bananas, the company is also looking at other fruits and vegetables that can be produced organically, including culinary herbs and vegetable salad crops.

Japanese consumers' concern over food poisoning outbreaks, practically undifferentiated cow colons, and food labeling fraud have been responsible for the big rise in organic food sales, a study made by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations said.

Demand is outpacing supply in many sectors of the organic food industry.

However, the organic fruit fruit and vegetables market has been affected by the new Japanese standards for organic food.

This resulted in a significant reduction in volumes because many exporters could not meet JAS regulations.

"The market for organic produce in Japan and all over the world, especially in developed regions like the United States and Europe, continues to grow and the scope for expansion of production is there," said IAO.

The FAO noted that in 1999, the market for organic food in the European Union—the world's largest organic market—was less than 2 percent of total food sales, but predicted that the organic would change as more consumers demand more organic foods on supermarket shelves.

PLDT seals PhilWeb acquisition

By Daniel L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST telecommunications firm yesterday strengthened its acquisition of 29 percent of PhilWeb Corp., boosting its plan to enter into the online gaming business.

In a statement to the stock exchange, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) said its subsidiary mVOICE Inc. assigned to PhilWeb last June 8 some P427 million as payment for the stake in the firm controlled by Roberto Ongpin.

As a result of the transaction, PLDT said that PhilWeb's board of directors will hold a special meeting to elect mVOICE's three nominees as directors and a vice chairman representing the telecom-electronics giant.

The deal is expected to give a big boost to online gaming in the country as PLDT's representatives on the new directors—including the country's largest cellular phone network—are tasked with PhilWeb's gaming franchise from the government.

Talk is also rife that PLDT will proceed to acquire more PhilWeb shares to be able to fully control the online gaming market—a suggestion that Ongpin has already shot down.

Ongpin has been unwilling to sell more PhilWeb shares to PLDT and that the latter can instead buy its relatively illiquid stock through the bourse.

PhilWeb is primarily engaged in internet-based gaming, through its appointment as principal technology service provider of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), with which it has a marketing consultancy agreement for Internet sports betting and Internet casino operations.

PHILWEB offers Internet sports betting in over 220 Pagcor Internet sports betting stations (ISBS) and over 40 Internet casino stations nationwide.

Asian stocks rebound after fall

SINGAPORE—ASIAN SHARES rebounded on Friday from midmonth lows as investors picked up beaten-down shares such as South Korea's Kookmin Bank, while the dollar rose on expectations of higher US interest rates.

Oil prices held steady in early morning after shedding a two-and-half-week low the day before on hopes that the death of al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq may help improve oil exports.

The retreat in oil prices gave Asian stocks support, but investors were also cagged due to the prospect of rising global interest rates and persistent worries about US inflation.

"The Indian base hasn't been driven to a level that looks purely sold low enough for now. The market is waiting for a catalyst to help it run around," said Koichi Ishii, manager at Chuo Securities' sales marketing department.

Tokyo's Nikkei was down 0.26 percent at 14,395.30 by the midday session after earlier trading in positive territory.

The broader TOPIX index was up 0.24 percent at 1,465.79.

The MSCI index of non-Japan Asian shares was up 0.84 percent by yesterday morning.

Global investors have been battered in recent weeks by worries of growing inflationary pressures in the United States just as the economy slows, and Asian markets have been further hit by fears that foreign investors would pull money out of higher risk emerging market assets.

US stock rose modestly on Thursday. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.07 percent, and the Nasdaq Composite Index gained 0.31 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged up 0.34 percent, tracking recovering global markets.

Cathay Pacific Airways was the top blue-chip gainer after the carrier said it would take over Dragonair in a deal that expands its access to the mainland Chinese market.

Shares in Taiwan open 0.82 percent higher, led by heavyweight tech firms such as TSMC, Hon Hai Precision Industry, while South Korea's main index also climbed 0.82 percent, boosted by gains in refiner S-Oil and Kookmin Bank.

Australia's S&P ASX 200 was 0.31 percent in a bounce back from its biggest one-day slide since 2001, and Singapore's Straits Times Index edged up 0.40 percent.

The dollar held near a one-month high against the euro after rallying on indications that the European Central Bank would be modest in raising interest rates following its latest rise.

Gold traded just above a near-two-month low after the metal had fallen sharply in US trade as the dollar rallied. Spot gold was quoted at $630.00/$631.00 an ounce on Friday compared with $667.50 an ounce in US trade.

Reuters

Disclosures

THE BOARD of directors of Petroenergy Resources Corp. has approved the distribution of a 20-percent cash dividend, amounting to P21.38 million payable on July 20 to shareholders as of June 30.

* * *

ALFREDO E. Bonoan, Willy N. Ocier, A. Gerard K. Tan and Edmundo L. Tan have been elected directors of Megaworld Corp. on June 8. Jose T. Saberan, Ricardo Leong and Jerry C. Tan have likewise been elected independent directors.

* * *

OSCAR M. Lopez, Manuel Vil. Lopez, Eugenio Lopez III, Felipe B. Alfonso and Angel S. Dagmang have been elected directors of Benpres Holdings Corp. on June 8. Vicente T. Paterno and Washington Z. Sycip have been elected independent directors.

Currencies

Base 1: 1000 Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.018004	1.000000	53.0396
Japan	Yen	0.166871	0.009263	8.8447
United Kingdom	Pound	0.010000	0.555000	29.4319
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139139	0.172500	7.6222
Switzerland	Franc	0.013162	0.730500	38.7558
Canada	Dollar	0.013900	0.771500	40.9254
Singapore	Dollar	0.024910	1.382500	73.3354
Australia	Dollar	0.023200	1.287500	68.2958
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.067100	3.724000	197.5400
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.270154	0.269000	14.2708
Brunei	Dollar	0.024900	1.382000	73.3023
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.002400	0.133200	7.0663
Kuwait	Dinar	0.059063	0.006000	1.3098
UAE	Dirham	0.272500	0.272500	14.4563
China	Yuan	0.136000	0.755000	40.0500
Taiwan	Dollar	0.000000	0.000000	0.0000
Argentina/Peso	Peso	0.076923	11.000000	
Brazil	Real	0.006240	0.443125	23.5088
Denmark	Krone	0.002700	0.149850	7.9500
India	Rupee	0.015154	0.841000	44.6162
Mexico	Peso	0.015154	0.841000	44.6162
Norway	Krone	0.002100	0.116550	6.1837
New Zealand	Dollar	0.014000	0.777000	41.2234
Russia	Ruble	0.000000	0.000000	0.0000
Sweden	Krona	0.002100	0.116550	6.1837
Thailand	Baht	0.000000	0.000000	0.0000
Vietnam	Dong	0.000000	0.000000	0.0000
Bahrain	Dinar	0.047800	0.026500	1.4060
Qatar	Riyal	0.274725	0.274725	14.5736
Oman	Rial	0.046800	0.026000	1.3791
Kenya	Shilling	0.000000	0.000000	0.0000
Kuwait	Dinar	0.059063	0.006000	1.3098
Norway	Krone	0.002100	0.116550	6.1837
Sweden	Krona	0.002100	0.116550	6.1837
Switzerland	Franc	0.013162	0.730500	38.7558
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000000	0.000000	0.0000

Net foreign investments up 11.4% in 1st quarter

CITYPLACE PROJECT
Manila City Mayor Lito Atienza Jr. and Megaworld Corp. chair and president Andrew Tan shake hands after signing the memorandum of agreement on joint venture Cityplace. The leading property developer has consortiums as joint venture with the city government to develop a PT 2-billion mixed-use complex in Binondo, Manila.

BSP sees $1.4B in inflows this year on improved investor confidence

By Doris C. Dorotan

NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTment flows to the Philippines rose by 11.4 percent in the first quarter to $408 million from a year ago, mostly channeled to the banking, manufacturing, construction and real estate sectors.

Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that for the month of March, the country received $73 million in fresh foreign investment due mainly to net capital inflows to long-term equity investments, which rose by $57 million.

The inflows in March, however, were smaller than the $104 million registered in the same month last year.

Unlike portfolio inflows that are very volatile, foreign direct investments represent only a relatively limited number of investors that are usually taken as capital keepers.

"The continued strength of FDI in the first quarter of 2006 was found to be mirrored in the 'other capital' account in our inflows of $224 million," Tetangco said.

The "other capital" account represents inter-company accounts between investor companies and their corresponding foreign direct branches.

"The remaining earnings account likewise grew by 19.4 percent as foreign banks preferred to retain their earnings in their local branches," Tetangco said.

The net equity capital, which includes investments in the same quarter last year, recorded a net inflow of $146 million.

"Equity placements, originating mainly from the United States and Japan, were channeled to the following sectors: Manufacturing, construction, real estate and financial intermediation," Tetangco said.

In manufacturing, the foreign direct investments benefited products of electronic and textile products and air-conditioning systems, he added.

For the full year, the BSP expects the country to generate $1.4 billion in net foreign investment inflows due to improving investor confidence, buoyed by the better fiscal position of the national government and the economy's strong economic fundamentals.

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PNOC unit to focus on alternative fuels

By Abigail L. Ho

SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT'S THRUST to achieve energy self-sufficiency, Philippine National Oil Co.'s geothermal subsidiary has decided to focus on the development of alternative fuels.

During yesterday's stockholders' meeting, PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. amended its principal purpose and changed its name to PNOC Alternative Fuels Corp.

The new PNOC subsidiary, which would be headed by outgoing Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya, will spearhead the development of alternative fuels in the country, particularly fuels produced from coal.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier announced the allocation of a P1-billion fund for fiscal year 2006 for coal-based biodiesel research and development.

PNOC Energy Development Corp. had also started a pilot project on ethanol development, committing P1.6 million for a campaign program expected to be undertaken in cooperation with the Quezon Province Cooperative Marketing Association and EL Ville Asia Pacific Inc.

Initially, the ethanol plant, more commonly known as auto-alco in the Philippines, will be planted on a 5-hectare land in Buhanginan, Cam. Hospital, Dinalupihan.

While taking charge of alternative fuels development in the country, PNOC will still be responsible for the development of the country's petrochemical industry.

PNOC president and chief executive Eduardo Mahakin earlier said that there was a need to "integrate" the local petrochemical industry to ensure its long-term growth.

Instead of just focusing on building a naphtha cracker plant, he said emphasis should be given to possibly producing the feedstock first.

Apart from the name change, the former PNOC and now PAFC welcomed new people to its board, including Abaya as president and chief executive and former Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao as chairman.

Other directors include Augustus Cuenca, Victor Corpus and Herminio Agulto.

Exports jumped . . .

From page B1

"Growth in exports was getting more broad-based," Arroyo said, explaining that the country was gradually reducing its heavy dependence on electronics for its export earnings as well as on the United States as a major export market.

Electronics, once the Motherload capped the list of export markets in April, heading the United States, which used to be the leading export destination of Philippine exports.

The Netherlands emerged 25.1 percent of total Philippine exports in April, accounting for $754.61 million worth of total exports in April. It was followed by Japan, which had a 16.6 percent share of Philippine exports and accounted for $646.50 million of total. The United States came in third with $612.62 million or 15.76 percent.

Other top markets were Singapore ($197.34 million); China ($107.81 million); Hong Kong ($171.26 million); Malaysia ($134.27 million); Germany ($120.84 million); Korea ($120.57 million); and Taiwan ($113.66 million).

Despite double-digit growth in exports, Arroyo said the government was not complacent, at least for the revision of the 8-percent export target as exports this year. She added that economic managers have yet to decide whether current developments should merit an increase in the projected gross domestic product for 2006.

GDP, a common tool used to measure a country's economy is the sum of all goods produced and services rendered in a given period. The government has set its GDP growth targets for this year at only 5.5 to 6.2 percent.

Shares end flat

From page B1

Again, said investors who sought shelter ahead of the long weekend. Financial markets will be closed Monday for a national holiday.

Financial markets worldwide have been reacting to the widening spread of interest in US interest rates, and fund managers have been realigning their investment portfolios in the direction of equities markets like the Philippines, which enjoyed a strong run-up earlier in the year due to energy inflows.

"The market is due for a technical rebound after the three-day sell-off which was massive. However, we are still not betting on a sustainable recovery at this point," said Jason Lago of Westlink Global Equities.

He said local investors were keeping an eye on future moves by foreign fund managers after they pushed out of risky markets amid concerns the interest rates would rise further as the Federal Reserve moves to tame inflation.

Lago said those fund managers could withdraw their portfolios before the end of the month.

AFP

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Margonong
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Child abuse 'hidden' problem in schools

By Tessa R. Solaiza

BEING REGULARLY subjected to embarrassment, unprepared unfavorably to another child, scolded and shouted at in front of the class.

These are some of the most common forms of child abuse in schools that a group of Philippine psychiatrists has identified.

The 30-member Child and Adolescent Psychiatry of the Philippines (Cappi), in a report, says these "little acts ... when put together, damage the self-esteem of the child, and could taint the emotional growth of the child."

Public, private schools

Informal surveys by the Cappi hours clinical referrals for child psychiatrists showed that there were no significant differences in child abuse incidents in public and private schools. They also showed that the most vulnerable children were those aged 7 to 9 years.

"Child abuse, to present it in a blanket phenomenon. We don't exactly know how to get the predictors is, but we [use] figures from available statistics," said Dr. Georgina Gozo-Oliver, Cappi secretary.

580-800 cases

The Cappi estimates that about 500 to 600 child abuse cases are committed by teachers each year.

The estimate comes from Department of Social Welfare and Development figures that there were an average of 10,000 reported child abuse cases per year from 1996 to 2004.

The group also used figures from the Philippine National Hospital which showed that 5 percent to 8 percent of child abuse perpetrators referred to its child protection unit in 2005 were teachers.

"Doing a little math, with 10,000 cases per year and 5 percent to 8 percent, [of the perpetrators being teachers], that's about 500 to 800 child abuse cases committed by teachers per year," said Oliver during a recent media forum.

According to the Cappi survey, 86 percent of child abuse perpetrators were females, while a small number involved janitors, bus drivers and other school personnel.

The Cappi said this was not surprising because students spend more time with teachers than with anybody else in school.

More research

"We're not here to persecute teachers. [What] we needed like to say is that it is happening, and that is shouldn't be happening," Oliver said.

She said more research was needed to explore why children are abused in schools. But part of the problem, she said, is the teachers themselves. "Some more children who could not be controlled due to hyperactivity, aggressiveness or restlessness and those who were perceived to be physically and mentally weak.

Dr. Corinthe E. Rosing, Cappi director, said the present ratio of 1 teacher to 40 students in private schools and 1 teacher to 60 to 80 students in public schools could also contribute to child abuse.

"How can a teacher handle 40 to 70 students effectively? The teacher is stressed. [Other] stressed, he or she may respond in an inappropriate way," said Rosing.

The impact of abuse on a child depends on personal factors, including his age, his/her feeling of helplessness, the way the people around help him/her cope, who the perpetrator is, and the severity of the abuse, Rosing said.

School phobia

"Children are by nature resilient. Out some are more vulnerable and can't overcome. I know of some children who don't want to go to school anymore because they were embarrassed by their teachers. This is called school phobia. Lived it is triggered by an abusive experience," Rosing said.

Oliver said child abuse in schools can be prevented in many ways. For one, teacher training should reminder the teachers' emotional well-being. Parent-teacher associations can also help by reporting on the looming cases happened.

"Abuse should be recognized by the child, his teachers, principal and school personnel," said Oliver.

"A teacher should be aware if he or she has no institution to abuse a student. And teachers should monitor each other," she said.

Agent of agreement?

THERE'S AN INTERESTING NEW study from researchers in the University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology. According to psychologist Brad Bhatia and her colleagues, under the right circumstances, caffeine could make people more receptive to alternative viewpoints.

The reasoning behind the theory involves stimulatic properties of caffeine. Previous studies have shown that moderate caffeine consumption, say the equivalent of two cups of coffee, affects one's ability to focus and process information. Complex information processing includes weighing each performance multitasking.

So the stimulant works on the brain, the mind finds itself more likely to focus on a topic and carefully consider it instead of superficially processing the issue. This leaves it open to a person's understanding of the issues and makes one more open and possibly even preferring opposing viewpoints.

Conversely, if caffeine makes a person easily swayed by arguments, then it makes it less difficult for him to listen to Bhatia's change his mind once he has invested the conspiracy.

Caffeine-laced orange juice

The researchers developed two experiments involving nearly 150 college students who were made to drink a glass of orange juice that was or may not have been laced with caffeine.

For the first experiment, about 70 female students filled out several questionnaires regarding their attitudes toward a number of topics. They were given cover and then divided into two groups. One group was asked to read the text and recall it later on. The other group was asked to cross out the letter "e" throughout the entire text. Upon completion of the tasks, they were asked to fill out a brief questionnaire regarding their attitudes toward the statements in the text and to rate whether or not they thought they drank the orange juice with caffeine.

Bhatia et al. found that in the group distracted by the task of crossing out the letter "e," the percentage of caffeine had no impact their answers at the end of the experiment did not differ from the answers they gave in the beginning. A similar result was obtained from those who had to remember the text and who drank regular orange juice. But the answers of those who had to recall the text and who drank caffeinated orange juice varied from their original responses.

Another test

In the second experiment, researchers repeated the process with approximately the same number of male students but added distractions to make sure that the previous results were not skewed by students who may not have been sufficiently distracted by the letter-learning task.

One group had to cross out the letter "e" while simultaneously indicating whether or not they heard the crow noises playing in their headsets. The other group had to cried and remember the text while indicating when they heard specific musical tones.

The experiment yielded similar results: the "caffeinated" students who focused on the text and were only minimally distracted by sounds were more likely to have different responses to the questionnaires filled out before and after the trial, while the three other groups were less likely to have changed their minds.

Increase

Fortunately or not, depending on the situation, those who ingest large quantities of coffee probably don't need to increase to the compound's effects.

Martin et al. note that their study doesn't rule out the possibility that the change in attitude might also be due to mood shifts brought on by caffeine. If the students were more likely to be persuaded because they were in a better mood, then the change in responses. They said this was a theory that may need further study.

The article was published online ahead of the print run on June 5 of the European Journal of Social Psychology.

Straight talk on calories

CALORIES ARE TWO-SIDED: ON THE one hand, they are simply measurements of the energy we get from food. On the other, too many calories lead to weight gain.

Felicia Cordero of the U.S. Middle Secondary grade on many myths, and the result before this:

Myth: Eating nuts, kidney products and candies and drinking soft drinks at night lead to weight gain.

Fact: No matter what time you eat (whether day or night), you gain weight when you eat more calories than you burn. Avoid munchies emanating in front of the TV.

Myth: One diet is calorie-free.

FACT: We may include in fat-free food such as calories and carbohydrates, making that they may contain the same or even more calories than their regular counterparts. Get the facts on fat-free foods by checking the label for the serving size and amount of calories per serving.

Myth: Carbohydrates (and sugar) cause weight gain.

Fact: Carbohydrates (and protein and fat, for that matter) do not cause weight gain unless they contribute to excess calorie intake. Some people have diets that are extremely high in carbohydrates and low in protein and fat. Studies show they get healthy carcinogens, and their food is excessive.

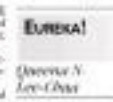
Myth: Do exercise every!

Fact: No. For instance, an intake of 100 extra calories from an extra half-cup of cooked rice or two small slices of bread every day beyond the daily requirement can add about 10 pounds to body weight at yearend.

Math horror

Ron Simeon Dominguez@yahoo.com] writes, "The joke published in your columns are funny. Here are two more, although I did not write them."

A mathematician, a biologist and a physicist are sitting in a street café watching people going in and coming out of the house on the other side of the street. First



EUREKA!

Queenie N. Lee-Chua

they see two people going into the house. Three minutes after a while they notice three persons coming out of the house.

The physicist says, "The measurement wasn't accurate."

The biologist says, "They have reproduced."

The mathematician says, "It's not exactly one person enters the house then it will be empty space."

Calculus

The second anecdote sends a little knowledge of basic calculus, and I am happy to note that several high schools now teach that subject.

Two mathematicians are in a bar. The first one says to the second that the average person knows very little about basic math. The second one disagrees, and claims that most people can score such a reasonable amount of math.

The first mathematician goes off to the restroom, and in his absence the second calls over the waitress. He tells her that in a few minutes, after his friend has returned, he will ask her over and ask her a question. All she has to do is answer "One third x cubed."

The agrees, and goes off mumbling to herself.

The first guy returns and the second proposes a bet to prove his point. He tells he will ask the blonde waitress an integral, and the first laughingly agrees. The second motions over the waitress and asks "What is the integral of x squared?"

The waitress says "One third x cubed," and while walking away turns back and says, "Plus a constant."

Herbal remedies offered for 2 male health problems

By Charles E. Rotkin

ONE SHOULD BE VERY PRUdent when using products that claim to be natural alternatives for treating impotence. These are called "herbal." Pages and websites offering advertised on the Internet may be ineffective, if not dangerous.

"There are many products marketed as such, and as with any product on the market, some are effective, others don't. Most alarming are those supposedly herbal alternatives that contain small amounts of the prescription drug," said Dr. Gigi Mercio, senior research scientist at Philville Health Institute.

Mercio, who is in charge of developing plant-based supplements and consultation, was recently invited by several Philippines to formally introduce two new plant-based products that address common male health problems.

Mercio said that Bio Hidrosilo Together is a food supplement that enhances sexual performance in men while Bio-Min Iron Palmetto and Nettle Root Blend is an herbal preparation to support normal prostate function and urinary flow.

African spice

Mercio said Sexually Together is not a drug or an aphrodisiac since it does not engage chemicals but instead helps support vigor and stamina. But until it does not have the side effects common to most performance-enhancing drugs.

He said Sexually Together is sourced from a spice known in Africa as grains of paradise. The seeds come from a plant belonging to the ginger family and are often used in African and Moroccan dishes.

In a small clinical trial conducted by the institute, Mercio reported that 80 percent of those took the supplement had improved performance during sexual activity, within one to three hours after taking the soft gels.

The other product, Bio-Min Iron Palmetto and Nettle Root Blend, was found to have beneficial effects on lower urinary tract symptoms due to the occurrence of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), a noncancerous swelling of the prostate and the resulting urinary difficulties that affect many middle aged or elderly men, said Mercio.

Used by native Americans

Mercio explained that saw palmetto has been used by native Americans to treat urinary problems.

"Evidence is building that the compound taken from a particular dwarf palm tree may help treat BPH. In fact, the compound is already in accepted medical treatment for the condition in Germany, Austria, Italy and other European countries," he said.

The nettle root, meanwhile, is traditionally used to treat urinary tract inflammations and the discomforts of an enlarged prostate.

Mercio said natural, plant-based remedies are receiving extensive research and a new attention to synthetic treatments.

"But it should not be forgotten that these herbs and spices have been used as medicines for centuries," Mercio said.

The institute has studied the effects of population with a low incidence of a particular disease and tested plants by pharmaceuticals with particular effects. Mercio said the institute employs the most advanced science and processes and facilities as well as the research quality control necessary in producing their supplements.

PROPERTY

Edna Cruz G. Mangaoang

Gov't, property sector bullish on retirement villages

By Tess R. Salazar

THIS IS NOT JUST FOR THE BIG PRIVATE real estate companies. This is for all of us. Let us not trivialize and postpone it."

This was the bullish declaration of Gerardo R. Ajdigan, dean of the Philippine Retirement Authority, to representatives of property developers comprising the Philippine Retirement Industry Group (PRIG) as she urges parties interested plans to set up retirement villages for this expected multitude of foreigners who will decide to spend the twilight of their years in the Philippines.

Ajdigan also announced those present that the real estate sector would be tailored the retirement industry's preparation.

Among those present during the meeting were representatives from Philippine Long Corp., Megaworld, Filinvest, Ayala Land Inc., Empire East Properties, Subic Bounty, Highlands Prime Inc. of SM and Healthcare Conglomerate.

Flagship industry

The retirement industry was recently declared by President Arroyo as a flagship industry, underlining the potential impact of the expected $40 billion revenue in the next 10 years. Double-digit growth in economic landscape.

Ajdigan recently disclosed to Inquirer Property that he has been meeting with leaders/leaders who had been expressing plans of setting up their own retirement villages.

Property developers, among other sectors, are being urged to prepare for at least nearly a million retirees from Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, the United States, Canada and other European countries in the next 10 years. The Philippines, in particular, can expect an increased influx of middle-aged to well-heeled foreigners who would want to spend the rest of their life in the country.

Housing demands

And for the retirement sector, the Philippines is expected to face housing demands estimated at 859,000 units, either for lease or purchase, in the next 10 years.

Ned Antolino, summit chair and director of the Philippine Retirement Industry, said 80 percent of the retirement industry would involve the real estate sector.

"Economies of the industry of economies as-Ilocos should involve linking up hospitals and health destinations until we can develop integrated retirement villages," he said.

Ajdigan said the Korean Chamber of Commerce members showed interest in going into the retirement business. He also said the Association of Los Baños professors who are retired and have properties also requested interest.

Ajdigan said a company based in Cebu had expressed intentions to build a retirement village, and a Filipino-Chinese in the country business is planning to set up a retirement village here with marketing offices in Taiwan-town and Shanghai.

There's a market

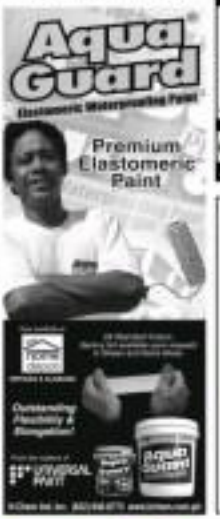
"The industry feels that there's a market for retirement villages and that they can provide the services. The country here are confident that they can put up a real estate component, and coordinate for the health, hospitality and wellness components," said Ajdigan.

"We have discovered a business that is practically on its 'in.' So said.

Ajdigan said, however, that setting up retirement villages would entail much work. "We should educate our people on what this is all about. This will create jobs, and will bring back OFWs to work here."

Apart from Rizon, Ajdigan also went to Japan to talk to the possible retirees of the Long Stay Foundation recently.

To address the need for more medication health facilities around the country, healthcare facilities are currently being tied up with multinational investors/consultants.



ConstructScope

Celadon: Home of rich tradition

CELADON RESIDENCES, THE ONLY MASTER PLANNED COMMUNITY IN Manila, recently served as the venue for a calligraphy art session.

Supervised by calligrapher Marilyn Lee, kids of young Filipino-Chinese families showcased their skills in this art of Chinese calligraphy. Celadon's location was just at the old Chinatown.

Celadon Residences is a 4.2-hectare community that will only house 350 families. They want to encourage a more cohesive interaction and socialization among residents.

The first suburban townhouse community to rise in Binondo is a visual structure of mid-rise apartments and Mediterranean-inspired architecture. It's near business establishments in Binondo, reputable Chinese educational institutions and hospitals.

Community homeowners [Tel. No. (02) 241-4576] can apply Level company that caters to young urban achievers. It builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the lifestyles are decentralized like lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customers.

Open house for Carmel Town

[ORGANIZED PROPERTY MARKETING CORP. WILL HAVE AN OPEN HOUSE FOR Carmel Town on June 17. Discounts as high as 15 percent may be availed of.

Carmel Town is set to become the social meeting destination in the South, its country club. The lofty, offers recreational amenities such as basketball court, tennis court, basketball court, children's hall, swimming pool, coffee shop, sauna, jacuzzi and massage rooms.

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URBAN INSTITUTE WILL CONDUCT A LECTURE ON "INVESTING IN REAL Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What to Beware In the Current" on June 15 to 17, 8:30 a.m. at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Topics will be: Mike's Rental Art, Abraham C. Ayala-Santos, Makati City.

Aims to be conducted on the succeeding days at the same time and venue is a series of other topics, which can be attended separately, as follows: June 15—Legal Aspect of Sale, Mortgage and Lease with Contract Documentation and Negotiations; June 16—Management of Rental Properties; How to Maximize Income of Rental Properties; July 3—Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects; July 5—Taxation Aspects of Real Estate Transactions and Real Property Assessment; July 7—How to Start and Manage a Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company.

July 10—Making Big Money in Distressed Properties; July 12—Workflow of Real Property Appraisal; July 14—Property Development Principles and Updates on BLGF Rules and Regulations; July 17—How to of Installment Sales and Lease-to-Own Scheme; July 19—Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis; July 21—Mathematics of Real Estate Investment; July 24—Real Estate Accounting: Avoiding Violations and Penalties; July 26—How to Prepare Real Estate Feasibility Study; July 28—Buying and Financing Your First Home. Effect For Effect Know.

For inquiries, call Urban Institute at 851-0668 or CP 0918-620-9511 or e-mail at urbaninstitute@yahoo.com.ph.

"I'M EXCITED ABOUT STARTING MY OWN INTERNET CAFE BUSINESS.
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intel

Serving both OFWs, home developers

By Charles E. Bolano

WITH MONEY REmittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) expected to grow by another 10 percent and reach a new high of $13 billion (P686.7 billion) next year, one company positioned itself to serve as a conduit between these OFWs and their families here, and the home developers nationwide.

"The potential in OFW remittances is a positive note even this cold week as a catalyst to boost the country's fledgling housing industry," said Subdivision and Housing Developers Association board adviser Roberto Ongpin, who also chairs Philippine Investment Alliance for Asian Economies (Philippine Asia), a leading investment company that recently partnered with Chinatrust to launch the new Hanil Visa Card.

Ongpin said the partnership will enable overseas OFWs and even those Filipinos permanently based abroad to send cash through the Hanil Visa Card issued by Chinatrust to their families here in the fastest, secured and most convenient way possible.

"In addition to better remittance service, the partnership makes cashless shopping and nationwide ATM withdrawals possible," explained Hanil's Jacinto Hanil president and CEO. He said Hanil is also in touch with other major banks in the country for a similar partnership.

Worldwide ATM access

Using the Hanil Visa card, Jacinto further explained that OFWs and their families here will have access to some 4,000 Branded Megalink ATM networks, which is in addition to over 30,000 worldwide as well as make cashless shopping possible at over 40,000 establishments in the Philippines and over 24 million worldwide that accept Visa cards with no extra charge.

At present, Hanil offers to its OFW clients bank-to-bank, door-to-door delivery remittance package (satisfy mail plus), Globe G-Cash, Smart Padala, bills payment services such as Bayad Center, etc.

But more than these conveniences, the Philippine dream of owning a home is fast nearing the reality of OFWs. He believes that part of the strong energy in OFW worker remittances is being invested in housing," Chua said.

He said a considerable percentage of OFWs, building professionals and even those Filipinos permanently based abroad is now contemplating on setting up a business here now in their hometowns, having a vacation home, or maybe coming home to retire after most years of working abroad. Or the retirement right here. OFWs in particular, have million car pension, next resident.

Chua added that the housing industry is currently posting an average OFW contribution of 25 percent and would easily increase as the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas is expecting OFW remittance to reach $13.4 billion (P671 billion) this year.

Green buildings have high market value

A CLEAR LINE IS BEGINNING TO EMERGE between the familiar value of a building and its green features. The a is contrast to what many in the building industry since that green buildings are not profitable, and go for both the budget and project schedules.

What is a green building?

A green building is one that uses resources such as land, materials, energy and water efficiently, reduces waste, minimizes pollution, provides occupants healthier air quality and causes less damage to the environment.

BAYER Home Building, Philippines (Cordoba Industrial Estate, Calamba, Laguna), was the 2nd Runner-up for the Japan's "Asian Energy Awards". Its green features include raised floor, natural ventilation windows, concrete sun-shield plate, mono-segregation and vertical elevator for irrigation and the lining of toilet and urinals.

Benefits of green buildings

Green buildings, since are smarter and happier more quickly. They have higher rents per square foot and have lower vacant turnover rates. In addition, they cost less to operate and maintain. They are also energy efficient and therefore cause no pollution.

Studies show that these green buildings cost no more to build, as sometimes than the differences because of lower strategies often offset reducing the size of more costly mechanical systems. The important factor to consider is integrated design.

In general, the cost of building green is about 2 percent to the benefits which are likely to exceed extra cost.

The potential benefits from green designs building and operation options to even high, as the association or rebuild, of existing conventional projects. Some estimate the comfort or type of construction or right more separate than the conventional construction.

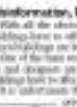
In the United States, a recent study has shown a direct link between investment by homeowners in energy-efficient work and the market value of their homes.

In England, it has been found that some homes will pay a premium for certain items.

In Thailand, of the height of the energy crisis in the region, many cities and commercial establishments were left low and high. In Bangkok, two identical office buildings were located within the same downtown area. One was a conventional building while the other was a green one with energy-efficient lighting. The green building was fully occupied while the other was not. Most reasons the green building offered lower monthly dues, lower utility bill and was always attended place to work.

A green building can also be known for better lighting and less psychological as quality. In fact from Sweden into healthier occupants, less sickness, better sales and greater productivity.

Given the price and economic incentives which green buildings can add value, it would be the benefits to business and the economy as a whole.



GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Alexander de Jesus

Misinformation, lack of information

With all the obvious advantages that green buildings have to offer, why is it that very few green buildings are being built?

One of the main reasons may be that developers and designers are not aware of what green buildings have to offer.

It is unfortunate that with the country's unprecedented increase in the volume of projects ranging from single-detached homes to high-rise condominium buildings, the home-buying public is not told about the benefits of green buildings.

Both the would-be owners and developers are clearly missing a considerable component—technology in the building being in a business benefit and increased market value.

In the Asean region, many of our neighbors are increasingly well aware of this. They build not just with look good but they are also very green. They are also very much into the building owners to the environment but also how it relates to the occupants and the quality of their life. After all, experts now agree that the main value of green buildings is its direct impact on people's health and productivity.

In the design of green buildings, for which attention is given to energy savings because it is easier to measure, hospital has the potential for it. But, then one potential of business—operating costs, productivity, health and well-being.

Studies have indicated that the initial investment are about 1.5 percent of such costs while staff costs can go as high as 85 percent. This means that the biggest return is on investment in the people's best improvement in business productivity due to green buildings.

As our developers compete with each other in courting local and foreign-based Filipino home buyers, they are threatened apart from the competition by offering competitive features of Asean and European-inspired clubhouse and villas, etc.

A better way to set themselves off from the competition is by building green homes and showing their target market the many benefits of green buildings. This is very effective marketing, especially for architects and home developers who have lived in advanced countries and are looking for the same "green features" they have found so attractive abroad.

What needs to be done?

To make people appreciate the value of green buildings, their outstanding features must be highlighted so as them off from the rest of the conventional buildings. The Asean Energy Awards is a step in the right direction. It is currently being done by the Asean Energy Awards and has been going on for the past seven years.

The competition aims to make the members countries of Asean aware of the need to make buildings more energy efficient. Winning entries are awarded in a special ceremony marking the event.

Real estate appraisers can help promote the value of green buildings. In practice, when they assess a property, they look at the quality of building. They may also highlight the benefits of green buildings so that more people will appreciate green value.

The government and the green building industry that includes architects, builders, etc. and the financial industries can work together and start seeing each other's point of view. Only then will the benefits of green buildings, financial and nonfinancial, be fully realized by all stakeholders.

Those in the crucial business should include in their housing contracts provisions for investors to evaluate operating costs and contribute to ongoing green building performance goals.

Finally, the most effective way to encourage the construction of green buildings is for top management to go ahead. After all, the benefits derived from green buildings are felt by those who are the ones who live in or work in them.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail alexdejesus@gmail.com.

A luxury of greenery at One Serendra

SERENDRA IS THE OUTSTANDING garden residential condominium development that promises luxury families the best option of urban living in the metropolis and a home right out of the country.

Located at the Bonifacio Global City, Serendra is more school, commercial centers and places of work. It has a total of 11 residential choices to suit any homeowner's need—whether exclusively with a bedroom of time and space, or in-house community living.

Peter Dee, Serendra Premier (SPI)—the one name for top-of-the-line real-estate projects of Bonifacio Land—appreciate such exclusive and homey living. "Serendra is more than just a condominium. It provides an unparalleled experience of living with its spacious units, well-appointed amenities and lush greenery in density and multi-quarters, impeccable finishes of natural stone countertops and wood parquet flooring and world-class concierge and property experience within the urban Serendra development.

Themed gardens

The Serendra's themed gardens are carefully manicured and created with only the best partners and consultants in just Bill. Bill's legacy of exclusive and valued developments. "Our Serendra's greenery is an open window that breathes life into the streets due to its complexity and contours, and a truly immersive nature—plants and flowers are not only part of the landscape, but a part of life itself," explains Cesar Cortes, head of landscaping unit of Ayala Land's construction Management Group.

Instead of using plants that are commonplace, the meticulous calls for the use of unique plants. We contoured, lavished using cultivated on main thoroughfares. The surroundings instead of the usual varieties of plants traditionally used in landscaping.

Jennie Rosen of Tropic Asia, SLP's local landscape consultant, expounds on the qualities of Dee himself. "In the architecture will create majestic and grand entrance, their form around the garden such as varieties of cordate, it thick cuticles and curved on head of the leaves, giving a contemporary with an expanse of green perfect for activities outdoors.

There will also be a unique scented garden, reminiscent of days gone by, with fragrant flowers like the cattia, coral and compositis that will not only visual beauty but a completely relaxing experience for the senses. The garden themes easily reflect the desired setting tone of One Serendra area.

THE LANDSCAPING of the Serendra sales pavilion in Bonifacio Global City is representative of the second gr ensures residents can look forward to in One Serendra.

Perfect backdrop

A design all seen or you're outlook of One Serendra will also be designed with a 3-in garden theme in mind, placing flowing blends elements together with greenery landscaped in a simple but aesthetic manner, their focusing on the harmonious combining classic-modern of nature.

All the greenery is the perfect backdrop to the myriad of living conveniences and luxuries of One Serendra's 11 residential units with bathrooms and lounge open up to lush beauty and scenery. Amenities are also situated within the greenery, like the swimming pool and engineering acreage in the park, fitness plaza and sports courts are unbounded. There is even a spa available for One Serendra residents.

One Serendra's brand of greenery area, it seems not just within Serendra but among other residential developments in the area. Ayala Land has been touting the benefits of nature living while still living in the convenience of a full-service condominium development. One benefit-area is a green lung, which is another soothing mode out by Ayala Land Premiere for, see 889-2373).

Caribé of The Islands breaks ground for Guadeloupe

PROPERTY MAVERICK BRITTANY Corp. marks the first joint development of the Caribé of The Islands community rising at The Islands in Emerald in Cavite, with the ceremonial groundbreaking for Guadeloupe, the first of four model houses to be showcased in the enclave. The model home's groundbreaking comes just over a month after Caribé's launch, targeting the buyers of upscale homes in the country's fast-growing southern corridor.

The Islands, with lush tropical landscaping amid pine spaces established by lagoon and water features, is a high-end master-planned residential community evoking residential "Mediterranean" is Brittany signature inspired by some of the world's leading islands—from the Caribbean to the Greek Islands.

Caribé of The Islands is the first to showcase various for such a market, because it exclusively offers single-storey, sprawling home designs with ground floor plans, which influenced by those Caribbean-themed homes in Jacksonville Florida communities like Palm Beach. The architecture is revised to maximize and incorporate certain sense of those Florida homes, with the use of views of the Caribbean compared by coastal-inspired colors.

BRITTANY officers (from left): Mona Hurod, Tricia Chai and Marlene Sadicon tour their inspiration for The Islands' "walk of fame."

As with other Caribé home designs, furnishings with 200 square meters of floor space, is distinguished by a pitched hipped roof, with access from Alabang via the wide Daang Hari highway through Molino-Paliparan highway. The islands has created a new access road to Molino-Paliparan, the road intersects about 700 meters from Caribé.

The Islands offers the amenities of Club Island, the exclusive club which will offer leisure facilities in a lagoon-type swimming pool, including a lawn front pool with cabanas. Gardens, butterfly sanctuaries and tropical trees will frame the clubhouse, with its grand ballroom that will comfortably host up to 300 guests. Another attraction of the Islands will be Promo Park, a community park with a variety of sport facilities for the exclusive use of homeowners.

The common Caribé homes development is ranging from 150 to 250 sq m. Caravan homes sizes range from 247 to 441 sq m.

Life in The Islands is not meant for exclusive, but for those who have joined the privilege, investors of Caribé and The Islands' other enclosures by accessing by calling (02) 1251 and 910-2264.

How to choose the right blinds

WOOD BLINDS ARE SOME OF the world's most popular window coverings. They are perfectly with varied design styles—from the rustic to the traditional, the casual to the contemporary.

Ideal for bay and corner windows, sliding glass doors, French doors and cut outs, wood blinds are ideal for professional and "casual" rooms and luxury rooms in counters with tropical theories like the Philippines.

Significant investment

Apart from addressing a wide range of design styles, wooden blinds are also durable and long lasting, thereby providing significant investment. This is the reason designers and homeowners tend to do their homework to ensure that the wooden blinds they purchase are the best deals. The reason that they should not only address their aesthetic needs, but they are of the highest quality as well.

And one way of making sure that one is investing in the right product is to go for a brand that has the longest history in producing the best products—and there is no other than Hunter Douglas.

Hunter Douglas is the world's leading name in window fashions and has been the inventor of the original wood blinds and distinct collections are the most preferred products of many designers, and not only because of their varied designs and preferred features, but also because they offer their clients durability, making them a good investment.

Some tips

And here, Hunter Douglas shares with readers some tips on choosing the right blinds:

• Choose solid, natural wood shades to enjoy the product information to help you confirm whether what you're purchasing is made from a fast-growing species or a sustained wood. Hunter Douglas wood blinds, for example, are made from genuine American hardwood, making it strong and long lasting.

• Look for "custom" wood blinds custom window. "Custom" means that the blinds have been made to the exact specifications of your window while "coordinated" means the blinds have merely been cut down to fit your window. When you order from Hunter Douglas and use the (02) 403-1155, (032) 420-0024) and (052) 480-0575), you can choose from a wide range of custom-made blinds.

• Look for light-blocking features. Quality wood blinds are built with light tolerance between panels to minimize or completely eliminate light leakage.

• Choose a high-quality finish. Avoid items in high quality finish that will lead to damage to the touch and fastness and rub to the eye.

• Look at the statistics for energy efficiency and UV protection. Wood blinds not only look good, they should also help you increase your energy savings (reducing your home's energy costs) and help protect the interiors of your home from damaging ultraviolet rays. Hunter Douglas Duette wood blinds offer superior energy efficiency as well as good sound absorption.

• Look for a warranty that demonstrates product quality, and customer service and trusted. The best way to know what's covered is to ask for a copy of the warranty. Also, check out the company that stands behind the warranty. Make sure that the company has a reputation for manufacturing consistently superior quality products and providing a high level of customer satisfaction.

• Once you settle on a price, be sure everything is included. Double check to make sure that the price you're quoted includes all the design options you want in your finished blinds.

• Ensure trained professionals install your wood blinds. Custom-cutted wood blinds require certain attention, and when you're making a significant investment in your window treatments, you want to make sure an experienced professional is both measuring and installing them, so there are no surprises.

• If you choose Country Sunset Blinds from Hunter Douglas, be sure they are manufactured by a company that helps ensure that you receive optimal customer service in the future.

People, Events & Products

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Editor: Arlen Espinosa

Carmeltown drives Canlubang's development

WHAT WAS ONCE A VAST TRACT OF sugarcane fields has virtually transformed into a rapidly-growing cluster of development south of Metro Manila, favored residential, industrial and commercial projects have been gradually but surely rising in this corridor linking the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX). Don Jose Yulo's vision of transforming his favorite Canlubang into a new metropolis is now finally taking place.

Carmeltown is the central area of development in the fast rising New Canlubang area. Consisting of over 600 hectares, this prime property is central to the contiguous 7,000 hectare property controlled by the Yulo family. Already there are several multinational companies operating in the Canlubang Industrial Park 1, a premier Light to Medium Enzone which is home to several Dollar earning companies such as Fujitsu, and Topperware. Big name companies like Jollibee Food Corp and Edward Keller have also made this their chosen place of operations. As of last count, the park is estimated to have a working population of 15,000.

Residential communities are rapidly rising in this township, which is well within driving distance from Alabang and even Makati CBDs (40-45 minutes).

Top rated schools such as De La Salle, St. Scholastica and others are already operating in the area. Recently, San Sebastian College-Recoletos are up an impressive facility right in the heart of Carmeltown and is set to commence educating the students of the south this June.

Notably, another institution, the TESDA STI Mentorino academy is also moving in to begin operations by school year 2007. This campus is envisioned to have more state-of-the-art technology and facilities to cater not only to the local workforce requirements but also to foreign practitioners wishing to further hone their skills in their craft.

Within the area also is The Hills Country Club which recently broke ground. The private club is being made available to the lot buyers of the Carmeltown Neighborhood One, as well as the locators in the surrounding industrial parks.

The club will have facilities and amenities such as beach-type (sanded) pools, spa, bowling, tennis courts, food cabanas, tennis var, and even Cabanas where guests can stay overnight.

The township is largely being developed by the Yulo Group jointly with the Carmeltown Corp Group.

Golf courses have long since found their places in these gently rolling hills of Canlubang. Canlubang Golf and Country Club, Sta. Elena Golf Club, and most recently, the Country Club are a few of the finest golf clubs which have chosen this place because of its gentle climate and wide open spaces.

Even the Ayala Group has made announcements on this favored land several years ago and quite recently, a lot of developmental activity has been observed, hinting little doubt that this place is definitely one place worth looking at, sans.

GLOBE OPENS STORE AT SM MALL OF ASIA

Globe Telecom has opened a new business center. The company's 24th store in the greater Metro Manila area, at the master's-largest shopping complex the SM Mall of Asia. This is Globe's biggest business center in the southernmost of the metropolis. At the inauguration of the SM Mall of Asia Globe Telecom Business Center are (from left) head of sales and distribution Joey V. Mendoza, chief operating officer Andrew Reyes, area head for South GSM Mary Ann E. Armando, GSM regional business head Rhandee C. Avalon, Jr., SM Mall of Asia business manager Tony Rodriguez, consumer business head Ferdinand M. Dela Cruz and business center development head Ma. Bernadette Del C. Javier.

WATER-SAFETY

Schools are a student-training ground motivational seminars on how to be safe in the water for lessons of the Red Cross Swim Safety Program. Ms. Ellis, lifeguard participants can still catch the last batch of the summer swimming sessions. For details, please call (02) 7-952, (02) 6-222, (02) 6-76, (02) 2-222, (02) 7-700, (02) 6-0 or visit the website at www.redcrossswimschool.com.

AIG DONATES US$200,000 FOR LEYTE TRAGEDY RELIEF

American International Group Inc (AIG), the parent company of Philam Life, recently donated $200,000 (approximately P10.4 million) for the support of the victims of the landslide tragedy that devastated the town of Saint Bernard, Southern Leyte early this year. According to Philam Life president and CEO Jose L. Cuisia Jr., $200,000 (P10,400,000) was turned over last June 1 over to Saint Bernard Mayor Leonard Kalinga, a local NGO, to help provide shelter to those rescued and to the members of the bereaved village in danger of experiencing the same fate. Meanwhile, US$40,000 (approximately P2.8 million) has been released through the Social Action Center of the Archdiocese of Lipa to address the immediate needs of the ongoing relief operations such as medicines, food, clothing, blankets, tents, potable drinking water, etc. Aside from AIG's donation, Philam Group employees have also expressed support for the victims of the

tragedy. Photo shows Philam Foundation president Anna C. Hofileña (right) and executive director lawyer Manuel L. Quiaoit (left) with Bishop Precioso Cantillas of the Diocese Social Action Center Mission during the formal turnover of two check donations in Leyte.

MDH ASSISTS CATARACT PATIENTS

Manila Doctors Hospital (MDH), Manila's first and only ISO certified hospital, in partnership with Sight Saver Foundation (SSF), recently concluded the first of Vision (EOV) program which aims to provide free surgery to poverty-stricken cataract patients. The program, now in its 5th year, has answered the eyesight of around 600 patients coming from all over the country. Nowadays, a cataract surgery is said to cost around P15,000 to P20,000. However, with the help of socially responsible groups like MDH and SSF, the costs are significantly reduced to around P5,000. Both groups provide P5 million annually for medicines and surgical missions, while MDH is tasked to extending the use of its medical facilities for free. Moreover, MDH accreditations from the Department of Ophthalmology, nurses and other medical staff volunteer their services on a pro bono basis. Also, pharmaceutical companies lend a

hand in providing much needed medicines and medical supplies. Photo shows Dr. Oscar Lagrimas, MDH consultant, checking on one of the patients before entering the operating room. For more information on other medical and surgical missions, call the MDH Corporate Social Responsibility Department at e-mail at info@manilados.com.ph.

PYNOCARE CELEBRATES 1ST YEAR IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH YES!

Pynocare 60 kickoff, the financial investment for better or mediocre, celebrated its 1st year of bringing Pinkie-Free diet to Filipino women by launching Pinkie-Free diet to Filipino women by launching its 60 kickoff, the financial investment for better or mediocre, celebrated its 1st year of bringing

BUSINESS

Gov't eyes 11th hour passage of '06 budget

Fiscal managers hope lawmakers will 'take RP's interest at heart'

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND Management has not given up on the much-delayed 2006 budget—a massive economic measure now on its way to marking its first birthday.

Acting Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr., the late passage of the proposed P1.353-trillion national budget will be much better for the economy than operating on a reenacted budget. He also believes that there is still room for the upper and lower chambers of Congress to break the impasse over the proposed budget.

"They are reasonable men," Andaya said, referring to the legislators. "I know that, at the end of the day they will take the country's interest at heart."

Lawmakers said they could still work on the passage of the 2006 budget when Congress reopens in July. Next month, Congress is supposed to be working on the 2007 budget.

Andaya said that although his office is already preparing the 2007 budget, the 2006 budget may still be enacted by the congressional stalemate.

For her, the country's economic team had requested grave reasons over the Senate's move to cut the proposed budget. The team said the move would derail initiatives that would boost the government's weak spending for infrastructure.

The Senate's position of approving only a P1.027-trillion budget for this year differed greatly from that of the Lower House, which sought to keep the proposed budget intact.

"The country has suffered from lack of infrastructure, and this has dampened private investment," the economic team said in a joint statement. "It is unfortunate that the nation has fallen behind its Asian neighbors in the ratio of national government capital outlays to gross domestic product."

The team includes Andaya, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri.

The economic managers said that the Philippines' capital outlay-to-GDP ratio stood at 3.38 percent—much lower than that of neighboring countries. Indonesia has 6.32 percent, Vietnam has 8.39 percent, Malaysia, 6.15 percent, Singapore, 5.25 percent, China, 5.89 percent, and Thailand, 2.05 percent.

The economic team said the government decided to frontload expenditures in the early part to jump-prime the economy. Should the government operate on a reenacted budget, first it would have to tighten expenditures in the second half.

"These effects [breathing] are already being felt," the team said in the joint statement. "In the first quarter of 2006, public construction grew by 9.4 percent, as counter to the [construction] of 6.6 percent a year ago.

"We badly need the infrastructure spending," they said, adding that with the spending cuts proposed by the Senate, investment growth would decline by a percentage point this year.

One of the projects to be sacrificed under the Senate's proposed budget cut is the Mass Rapid Transit 3 project, a project for building 16 kilometers of roads, bridges and waterways.

"We understand that they view infrastructure projects with suspicion as they consider pork barrel spending," they said. "But this ranks the following consequences on the economic managers, will take full responsibility for the fiscal integrity of the [Office Senate]... program."

TEVES

MNCs may file finance reports using other currencies

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue has issued a regulation allowing multinational companies to submit financial statements in "functional currencies" in an effort to comply with international accounting standards.

"Functional currency" is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the reporting entity operates, the BIR said in Revenue Regulations No. 6-2006.

But the BIR warned that multinational companies would not be allowed to use functional currencies in filing income tax returns here.

Today's regulations, companies that would be paying taxes in functional currencies should use the exchange rate at the time of remitting payment to banks acting as collecting agents for the BIR.

The BIR said that in determining the appropriate functional currency to be used, a multinational firm should choose the currency that influences prices of its goods in services, and the currency that mainly influences the cost of its labor, materials and other cost of doing business.

It said that corporate taxpayers therefore are not free to choose what functional currency to use, and should observe the guidelines in determining the appropriate currency to be used in making their financial statements.

Because income tax returns should still be filed using the Philippine peso, corporate taxpayers must "translate foreign currency amounts or peso amounts filing in the monthly average exchange rate as determined by the Philippine Dealing System.

Due to the adoption of international accounting standards, multinational firms should secure BIR's thumbs endorsement for the previous years using their functional currencies.

Michelle V. Rosca

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Transco bidders need to post $30-M bond

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) is requiring investors interested in bidding for the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) concession to post a $30-million bid bond to ensure that they will act on their commitments.

"The $30-million bid bond is a guarantee that the prequalified bidders will completely, faithfully and promptly comply with their obligations under the bidding procedures, the [direct] agreement and the final transaction documents," PSALM president Rizwan Orozco yesterday said in a statement.

The bid bond should come in the form of an irrevocable standby letter of credit.

The winning bidder will be given three business days after securing the concession to adjust its bid bond to 1 percent of the transfer bid.

Upon completion of the transaction, the winning bidder will be required to pay the "transaction bond fee," which represents 15 percent of the bid price.

The balance may be amortized over a period of up to 15 years and translated to its peso-equivalent as a predefined rate.

The deferred portion will carry a PSALM-prescribed interest rate, which is also in line with market rates.

"The deferred payments, representing up to 75 percent of the concession fee, will be denominated in peso, marking Transco's potentially positive revenue stream," Orozco explained.

"Requiring both the upfront and deferred portions to be payable in US dollars, compared to Transco's primarily peso revenue stream, will introduce a very large currency risk for investors," she added.

In addition, the winning consortium will be required to maintain throughout the 25-year concession period an investment-grade credit rating to ensure the fulfillment of its obligations.

The letter of credit must be submitted to its bill amount after any drawdown by Transco, PSALM said.

PSALM had earlier announced that it would be auctioning off the Transco concession by September.

Interested investors have until July 31 to submit their expressions of interest to qualify for the bidding.

Commercial banks' real estate lending fell in Q1

By Dara C. Dandan

THE EXPOSURE OF PHILIPPINE commercial banks to real estate eased by 1 percent in the first quarter to P463.3 billion a quarter ago due to reduced lending to the sector, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

After two consecutive quarters of growth, real estate lending dropped by 1.6 percent to P466.3 billion from P459.2 billion a quarter ago, thus trimming overall exposure to the property sector.

Real estate loans comprised 91.6 percent of the total commercial bank exposure to the real estate industry.

"Several banks posted reductions in their real estate loans during the quarter, mostly due to payments made by borrowers," the BSP reported.

On the other hand, exposure in the form of investments in securities issued by real estate companies even went up by P500 million to about P17 billion from a quarter ago.

This represented the remaining 8.4 percent of banks' exposure to real estate.

Most real estate loans were granted for the construction and development of real estate properties for commercial purposes, including infrastructure projects, comprising 43.1 percent of total real estate loanings.

The remaining 47.9 percent was utilized for the acquisition of residential units by individual homeowners.

The bulk of the loans, representing 99.2 percent was held by commercial and commercial banks, while the remaining 2.7 percent was accounted for by their trust departments.

Meanwhile, past due real estate loans dropped by 1.8 percent to P26.3 billion, easing the past due ratio to 14.1 percent from 15.1 percent of total real estate lending.

The BSP said the improvement in the past due ratio was due to banks' rigorous collection, restructuring and foreclosure efforts.

The past due ratio on real estate lending in the first quarter marked an improvement from the 20.9 percent ratio a year ago.

The ratio of combined real estate loans and investments in real estate companies to banks' total outstanding loans, exclusive of interbank loans, plus total debt and equity investment stood at 8.9 percent.

This was lower than the 9 percent ratio last quarter but slightly higher than the 8.8 percent ratio posted a year ago.

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Two female housemates in hot holding hands action! We live under such microscopes today, every little thing seems so big. Or is that the way we want it?

Drugs. Sex. Sloth. Please.

By Pepe Dickos

Super! Sarcasm Alert. Sarcasm Awaiting observation remark.

WE DECIDED TO DO A spread on what a lot of people say our generation is—apathetic, sex-crazy, media-obsessed, religionless drug-gies with parental issues and woo-do insecurity.

Why? Because we can.

Because we enjoy getting mail from your parents. Because your parents will hate this from you. Because you will definitely find it. And we're glad you will.

Yeah, parents, look at the picture—dude our first dragged our guy looking so cool. Look at that girl, holding hands with a boy, looking so cool. Look at that boy with a black eye! He looks so cool.

You should do that. 110,000 a month right there.)

Disobey your parents! Have promiscuous sex! Don't grow chastity! Cool.

Drugs. Sex. Sloth. Please! (Another one million words.)

We decided to do a spread what a lot of people say our generation is because we realize a lot of you tend to to find out what's cool and we need to tell you you shouldn't be doing that.

Because it's never been about going with the flow and f**king it's not about what's in and out. It's not about what you've smoked and what you haven't. We're the 90s generation—it's about creating our own flows.

It's about creating your own cool.

The pressure is on

Yeah, there is pressure in for the environment we are around so but this generation does not come from talking about drugs and sex. The pressure comes from families.

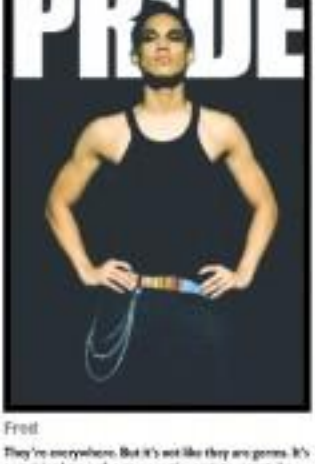
It's a bad side effect of living in the fifth generation—everybody's a struggle for validation and we have to use peers to get it. We copy others people to get this validation, there we break ourselves and do some of the things to appease our superegos. It's like we wanna be normal, but at the same time we don't.

The pressure will always be there. But we gotta know what to do about it.

We need to be able to talk about issues. Thank Buddha there are people willing to do this. Not your friends or those on late monthly "Worst Big Brother" Best Edition."

This openness brings this ME generation together. This openness might make this the most real generation ever. Heck, it'll make 14 year olds say "Drugs. Sex. Sloth. Oh please."

That's if they say the word "sh."



Fred

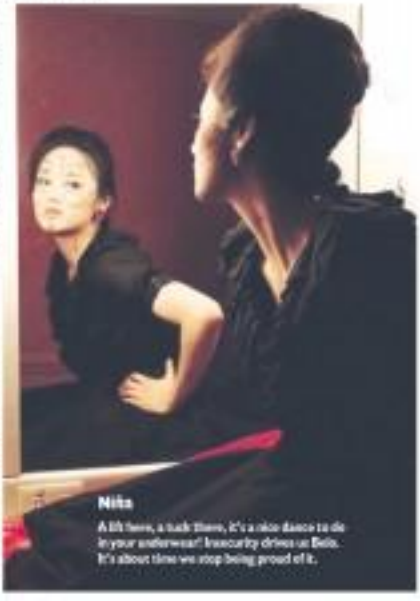
They're everywhere. But it's not like they are gonna. It's surprising how such a conservative society accepts homosexuality. But acceptance doesn't guarantee equality, and a bunch of ME generation homosexuals are standing up and saying they are just like you and me.

Sam

Sometimes, finding the meaning of life involves three days without bathing and getting your butt fused to a couch. Confucius says.

Matt

Depression's a word we say a lot these days. Some of us think that means black clothes and nail polish. But ME: grow further apart and it's actually a real problem now.



Nita

A lift here, a tuck there, it's a nice dance to die in your underwear! Insecurity drives us Bela. It's about time we stop being proud of it.

qui

nat the **ONE** campaign, it's a juvenile delin-
ent

ne on, fights are so grade school. There's
or two of you that still do it and we have a
ne for you. George Bush. Not cool.

Costume credits
Mikes and Gerald: Clothes from Paul Smith
Kim: Dress, stylist's own
Mike and Kim: Clothes and accessories, stylist's own
Joseph: All clothes from Zara
Fruit: Skinny jeans from Zara/man, stylist's own
Matt: Clothes from Paul Smith
Sam: Shirt from Paul Smith, pajamas, stylist's own
Nina: Dress from Zara
Jamilla: Top from Zara
Brenda: Dress, stylist's own
Abbie: Shirt from Paul Smith

Gerald, Kim and Mikes

Don't you wish you could cut them out and play with them? Some relationships these days are more like puppet shows. It's fun playing with people and stuff. But that's until Tina Fey says you got hit by a bus. Sorry ka sa lang.

But here's a line that should hit you:

'Every man is an island. I stand by that. But clearly some men are island chains. Underneath, they are connected.'— About a Boy

So cheezy. I love it.

Jamila

What is sex these days? Is it a flower or a bottle of wine? Or crackers? Probably crackers. The taboo surrounding sex is to blame. I mean, when you discover the Holy Grail is actually crackers, you kinda wanna get a lot of it.

Brenda

What's this, is this a necklace?

Religion isn't as big in our lives as it was to kids 50 years ago. But we're not clueless. We know Jesus ... was a man.

Questioning religion is big now. But it isn't this generation distancing itself from faith and God. It is us finding a way to be closer to God—we can't say we found our faith if we haven't even looked for it.

Hey we do talk about religion. Quite a lot. But shh.

Aldred

Apathy is not just a word, it looks good on a shirt!

It's confusing times. I have a secret—it's not that we don't care about politics or what's happening to the country. We're just waiting for the people who run it to retire.

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We're ready to audition for Season 2!

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Design Editor: DAVID MILAN
Stylists: HANNAH CRUZ,
HARVEY ALAMPAY, JANTHINA FONG,
MONICA DE CASTRO
AND STACY RODRIGUEZ
Makeup: The MacDonna Team—
MINJE ANGELES, CLAIRE OBOMSAWIN,
MICKEY SEE and RENO ZULUETA
Hair: FELICITY SON
using Kiehl's Ultra Series
Special thanks to:
ZARA AND PAUL SMITH for the clothes

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A roaring road trip with Pixar's Nelson Bohol

By Oliver M. Palumbarit

HE DIDN'T HAVE A GRAND plan to be big in the field of animation, but Pixar's supervising production artist Nelson Bohol eventually landed the coveted job after years of dedication and perseverance in the Philippines. After taking up Architecture at Manuel L. Quezon University in Manila, a friend encouraged him to try out for a job offered by an American animation studio based in Makati. He got hired as a layout artist, and was introduced to the business of creating art for a number of cartoon shows. That was 20 years ago, and the man who had no inkling whatsoever of the animation industry's workings back then would later re-found a studio devoted to layout artwork for foreign animation companies.

In 1996, Bohol was hired by Rio Animation in the United States, and settled there for four-and-a-half years until the studio folded. He transferred to Pixar Animation Studios immediately, where he contributed heavily to shaping the worlds of its hit computer-animated films, including "Finding Nemo" and "The Incredibles."

Remember Nemo's squabbles, and Wednesday the uncle-villain's island lair? Those are just some of Bohol's handiworks, and the diverse artistic challenges continue to keep him on his toes. In the John Lasseter-directed "Cars," for instance, he was assigned to re-create the look of a wasteland route, which is actually set for racing, from memorabilia.

Bohol, a "1.50 percent Pinoy" who resides in East Bay, California, with his family, recently shared insightful tidbits on life as a hard-working production artist via e-mail exclusive interview.

How did you get hired by Pixar, exactly, and what did you work on while employed there?

Our layout studio in the Philippines got so busy and we were able to get much diversity from the US. I think that Filipino talent was being recognized in the field during that time. So I got a few years, I was surprised because Pixar hasn't hired for their animation crew. They had rooms, and I was among the fortunate ones that passed. They took me to Phoenix. That was in 1996. From that year to 2000, we worked on two films, "Toonsylvania" and "Titan A.E.", and adverts on video games, "Battle for Middle-earth."

Was this move to Pixar easy for you?

In 2000, Rio Animation closed. My former supervisor moved to Pixar and after a few weeks, he called and said, "Hey I need you here!" I'm addicted to my pastimes, story-based and the rest was history. I'm using my layout experience but right now I'm designing. As a production artist at Pixar, my job is to design environments, props, everything.

How useful is your Architecture background to the field?

It helps a lot. Usually, when we design, we have to show dramatic shots, angles and perspectives. That's where it comes in. If I draw a

a roaring in

CWIZE Wilson and John Lasseter

A roaring road trip with Pixar's Nelson Bohol

From page B1

design at a different angle. In a demanding way, that's true. The job is awesome! I get to do, like, fun stuff. And I get to create something that's wonderful now—what? I do. But, looking forward, now I'm so grateful.

How much of the artwork in your department is done by hand, and by using computers?

It depends. For example, I can do a drawing with lead shading. Using the computer, you can do some specific shading perfectly and quickly for presentation purposes. It's your decision how to do that. The computer has nothing to do with the basic structure of a design that the director wants. That's where you make up something using your knowledge. But for presentation purposes, the computer can be used to help color or give mood value. It's not gonna change the design or the structure.

What are your responsibilities on "Cars"?

When they started production, I was still working on "The Incredibles." We kind of overlapped our work between the two films. But I got some of the design assignments in "Cars," like Radiator Springs town buildings. I got to do those with that, but I can't take credit for that entirely. To me, everything here is a team effort. I'm just fortunate to be part of the team that designed Radiator Springs.

John Lasseter is very sparkle with his vision for the film. Was it easy to work with him?

Oh, sure. Oh, yeah. John Lasseter knows what he wants. It's easy for us, because we don't have to guess. He's an awesome artist! When he says "I want a design for this," he gives all the details and specifics. You just create that thing that he wanted. He's the most approachable guy that I've seen. I was so scared that one day my first meeting with him, because he's basically the king of this project. I was shaking when it was my turn to pitch or "sell," my work. He told me, "You're fine. Don't worry." I was totally relieved when he said, "Your drawing is good. This is what I want," and he approved it. I was screaming it out for nothing. It's unbelievable, man. It's amazing. He's one of the kindest client or can't-be-marked with.

Does everyone want the other direction in your shots?

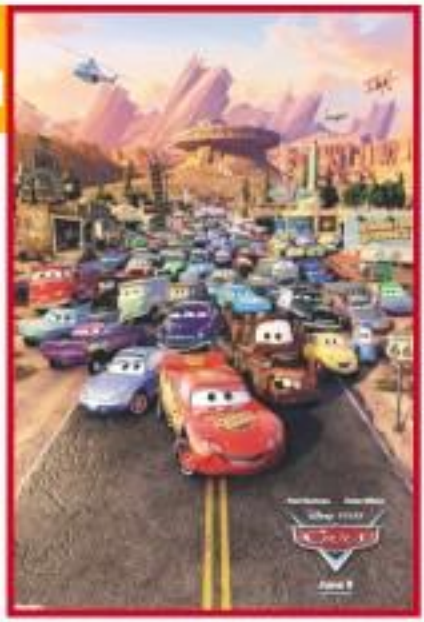
Most of the directors at Pixar are open to ideas. It's just difficult to the nature of each film. For example, in "Finding Nemo," it's underwater, so it's a totally different environment. If I have to design something, it's made up. But we use references a lot, and that depends on the requirements of each project. The level of difficulty isn't difficult. In "Cars," the director wanted the architecture to look like the real buildings of my home life. We did a lot of research. But we had to think of improvements and tweaked them to make them more cartoony.

How do you feel when you finally watch the movies you worked on?

When our department finishes, another set of artists comes in and does their jobs. Then we somehow get chance to show our work to the finished product. Now we don't hear him develops, and once we see it with sound and stuff, we ask ourselves, "Did we design it?"

What should aspiring artists know about working in animation?

You need a lot of love with this job. If you choose to be an animator, expect hard work. The reality of it is you have to start at the bottom, it's a process. Research, and start young. If you're a parent and you see your kid drawing, don't stop them. Give them pencil and paper. Learning doesn't stop, even for me. With animation, you learn a lot of things, every small that's not related to the work. Sometimes it gives you inspiration. And yes, drawing do some time. This is a manifestation of it, the proof, for me. Me, I'm a Filipino and I made it to Pixar. If I can do it, anyone can do it! If the door is shut, keep knocking. Eventually it'll open for you. Keep pushing. And keep dreaming! Waking beyond limit!



REAL-LIFE versions of our wonderful Pixar

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Hepatitis B: What the Public Should Know

By: Dr. Nancy Bernal
Infectious Disease Specialist
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine

Hepatitis B is a viral hepatitis caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). It is a serious disease because of the seriousness of its complications though most of the cases upon diagnosis are asymptomatic.

HBV is spread by either skin puncture or mucous membrane contact with the blood or other body fluids of an infected person. The virus has the highest concentration in the blood and sexual secretions. Moderate concentrations of HBV are found in semen and vaginal fluid. It is not spread by air, food, or water.

The virus is efficiently transmitted by sex contact. In the United States, it is estimated that sexual transmission accounts for about 50% of new infections among adults. The most common risk factors for sexual transmission among heterosexuals include having multiple sex partners, a history of sexually transmitted disease, or sex with a known infected person. Men who have sex with men are also at high risk of HBV transmission.

Infants born to HBV - infected mothers can get the virus from exposure to maternal blood and body fluids at the time of delivery. This is called perinatal transmission. If the mother is positive for HBsAg and HBeAg, 70%-90% of infants will become infected in the absence of post-exposure prophylaxis. The risk of perinatal transmission is about 20% if the mother is positive only for HBsAg. Up to 90% of these infected infants will become HBV carriers. Breastfeeding has not been associated with transmission of HBV, thus it is not contraindicated to breastfeed an infant born to HBV-infected mother.

The incubation period ranges from six weeks to six months. At least 90% of adults with acute hepatitis B show no symptoms. Likewise, infected children (< 5 years old) rarely show any symptoms. Persons with acute HBV infection might present with nausea and vomiting, lack of appetite, muscle and joint pains, fever, diarrhea, headache, dark urine and yellowing of skin and eyes. Most adults eventually recover from an acute HBV infection. However, about 10% of infants, 30-50% of young children, and 5% of adults are unable to clear the infection and then become and become chronically infected. The Philippines is highly endemic for hepatitis B with a chronic carrier rate of 9.2%. Persons with chronic (lifelong) HBV infection are infectious and can transmit the virus to others thru sexual contact, blood donation, or sharing of toothbrushes, razors, or other personal care articles. Usually chronically infected people do not feel sick and do not realize they are infected. More often than not it is only during a routine Hepatitis B screening for employment that a chronically infected person finds out through blood testing. Chronic HBV carriers are at high risk of developing chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis (scarring of the liver), liver failure, and liver cancer.

Hepatitis B can only be diagnosed by blood testing. The blood tests can not whether or not a person is currently infected or has been infected in the past. If the test indicates a person has been infected in the past, testing will also determine whether the person has developed protective antibodies to the virus or whether they still have virus in the blood, indicating they might have chronic HBV infection. These tests are available in several medical centers around the country.

Once diagnosed, a consultation with a gastroenterologist is advised since there are several available medications that may help a person who has chronic HBV infection though not everyone is a candidate for these medications.

Hepatitis B infection can be prevented thru vaccination. Hepatitis B vaccine is given as routine immunization starting at birth. Infants born to HBV infected mother should receive post-exposure prophylaxis within the first 24 hours of life. They are given Hepatitis B immunoglobulin and Hepatitis B vaccines to prevent perinatal transmission. The hepatitis B vaccine is one of the most safe vaccines available and was responsible vaccines and is safe and effective not only for children but for adults as well.

For protection against vaccine preventable diseases, ask your doctor about the suitable vaccines for every member of the family, depending on their age and lifestyle. Like, if only vaccines is protect big with the medical community, so more patients can discover their power to protect their loved ones inside and outside the home. Get more health information and advice on family protection through vaccination.

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When good things happen to good people

By Katchie A. Rodrigues

PEOPLE TALK ABOUT SYNERgy, synchronicity, harmonious orgasm, my sic, stop that. Collaboration, teamwork are other words that describe the coming together of like minds, bodies and souls. It's hard enough working with or as a group and there is no code (Da Vinci or otherwise) for the perfect marriage between professional and personal or creative and commercial. But hey, every now and then, life has a way of throwing you into the path of "the One."

Even on a professional level, finding someone on a similar vibration level is a major most ambitious business long for. Just like telling in love, you can never tell who will fall right into you street tip. Many serendipitous for some are professional meetings may form an outcome of highly inspired partnerships. One example of this is when Cristina Tesoro and Lea Tuason Banaga, founders of tri bags (who commonly patronize Filipino craftsmanship and materials for their high quality women) combined forces with stylist and mentor to many of today's creative "rules to know." Lea Espiritu. The result was a very well-attended photo exhibit sponsored by Epson, Instruction and Epson Digital at the Powerplant Mall. Expensive for sis, a super-powerful line of bags was born.

Superpowered? Yes. The first series mentioned "Lolita" is made of eight original styles, done in homage to eight spirited women. Each bag is multi-textured, created with a mix of at least three different elements. Bags are super exclusive due to serial numbers imprinted on each limited edition bag (only 24 pieces per style). Also, before the store opened to you unless you call us a price column, let me get to the "good" stuff.

Nowadays, all we get in our lives, is a s--t load of bad press. Maybe would collide us as the conservative. Rachel does me one with a phalanx of devil's advocates below; they have a chance to take shape. All in all, it's a bleak outlook for the more artistic and the unsophisticated. At the end of the day we all have to make a living and more have to compromise their ideals. Ironically, the artist I mentioned on her track to become more and more elusive. So when the "Lolita Project" came up, it was like the heavens had come to Muhammad. Cristina, Lea and Lea empowered their company, mostly up and coming if not already established names in the fields of photography, make-up, styling, and fashion to create their own ghetto pre fog style. After being assigned both a bag model and a human "model" the artists were pretty much left on their own to do as they please. Talk about a deep, glorious breath for creativity. When was come was that in the end, both the "client" and "suppliers" were moved by their experiences. Can you imagine doing what you love with people you actually LIKE?

Like hopes like us they say so let the good times tell.

The ESPRITS Tri-It Lites is available at tri-bag boutique, 2/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell.

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You give me (World Cup) fever

Amplify your FIFA World Cup experience at Gweilos

By Pura Pastor

WHAT IS BETTER THAN watching the FIFA World Cup 2006 from your own living room? Enjoying the action with good chow and booze while surrounded by other enthusiastic soccer fans, of course.

Gweilos offers this experience at both their bars—in Legaspi Village, Makati and Alabang.

Four years ago, the owners of Gweilos discovered a fluke. Because the televisions inside their Makati bar was hooked up to Discovery cable, which airs cutting World Cup games shortly after they occur, people kept coming in, asking them to watch the channel in the games.

Somehow, without them planning it, one of Makati's best kept secrets turned into a favorite World Cup hangout of local soccer fans.

This year, Gweilos teamed with Solar Sports, the official broadcast partner of the FIFA World Cup 2006, to provide an amplified soccer experience for enthusiasts. All 64 games will be shown live including screens that turn to cast the action with cut both Gweilos bars.

While watching the games, patrons have easy access to Gweilos' most popular menu items including the yummy Butter Prawn (250), kinilaw plate and pasta, fried chicken, strip skin, sizzling salmon belly and grilled calamari. Beer will be another fun. And at 55.40 for a bucket of 6 bottles, why not?

Gweilos, which has been around for a few years now is known for its laid-back atmosphere. People would have no qualms about going there in shorts and flip flops to enjoy a drink or two (or 10) with friends. One of Legaspi's most relaxed watering holes, Gweilos is where lawyers and long-haired artists rub with flip flops and even twenty-somethings pour. It is definitely the opposite of your typical (only-for-the-rich) bar.

Gweilos also has a lot of projects that Noel Reyes, one of the owners says, "Bill and Ted in Stereo and Barbecue put up a bar. Our wonderful."

Gweilos Makati is normally filled with people from the area, by office workers who frequent Gweilos Eastwood is packed with college kids on weekends. "We have a lot of people from different industries coming in—a lot of them from advertising," says Noel. "We want people to think of Gweilos as 'their' sports place."

Music also plays a big part in the Gweilos' way. Gweilos Manila de Gusto said, "We take music seriously. Mike Melody, Kimbo, Hacks, Sniff, Sir Johnson, Jose Ars is great by playing every Friday, Orange and Lemon spent two years playing at Gweilos every Wednesday."

While Eastwood has become Gweilos' venue for local bands, the Makati bar has its musical lineup that people look forward to.

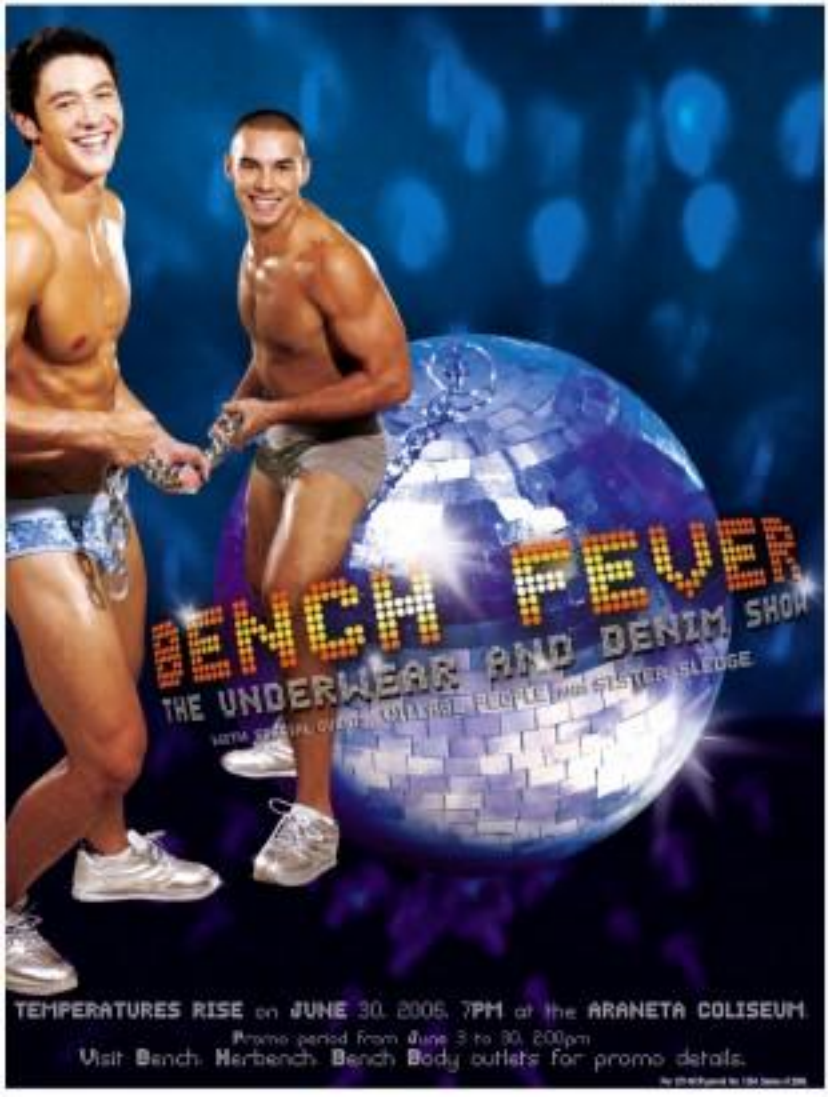
On Mondays we have I Don't Like Mondays with DJ Bo who plays 80s, 70s and 60s rock. On Tuesdays we have Mack Wacko with DJ Bo. On Saturdays, days we have Willy Wonka's Glass Factory. Friday is our busiest night. On Thursdays and Saturdays we have Kimo as a DJ," says Mack, laughing.

The owners noted Gweilos' style for. On, were doing that people in Hong Kong can relaxation, a friendly, person "white devil, "white" — or "ghost man," the word poor, but a positive ding to it—with regards bring customers in a joyous of the good life. Noel said, "There are lessons to learn from which we value by way of the locals, the dining host and the locals."

And this month, they're adding on more thing to the lineup—soccer.

Exciting games paired with beer and sizzling bacon. Sino ang wouldn't get a kick out of this?

Gweilos Makati is situated at the ground floor of GG Bldg. EW C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, is open from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Mondays to Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 5 a.m. on Saturdays. Details: Eastwood, located in Eastw. Orch, Eastwood Libis, is open from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Mondays to Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 5 a.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Sundays. Call 4370000 and 633-2095.



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Gerry's Chicken Supreme

From the creator of 'Wasted' comes 'Elmer,' a comic book that goes where no chicken has even gone before

By Rustic De Vera

WHEN GERRY ALANGUILAN '89 tells you he's going to pull something you've never seen before, he does it. Though he's a top-shelf comic creator whose previous jobs for characters like Wolverine and Superman, it's his personal project that really pushes the limits of the pencil. When he decided to write and draw a comic book series about a spunked lover's homicidal rampage through Metro Manila, he dreamed up the ultra-violent tale of outbursts and carnage called "Wasted," that runs away when readers find themselves cheering for the gun-toting madman.

Now, Alanguilan's gone a chicken for you. Not just any chicken, but the ultimate chicken, shot on the cracks in "Elmer" Book 1, the first part of a four-issue series from Alanguilan's newly ventured Brainless Publishing. In it, ebullient explosives parallel Philippines, almost exactly like our own, except that, somehow, the chickens have developed human intellect and the ability to speak, becoming a part of Filipino society. Despite the apparent humor in the overall concept, that of a world of talking chickens, it really is one of the most serious stories I've ever attempted to write and draw," he explains. "It's an idea and a story that I feel very strongly about and I didn't want to compromise it by removing some of its edge."

The egg behind this chicken finds its origins at the back in when Alanguilan was 13, when he had a pet chicken named Sisban, or rendered in his childish scrawl, "Sisbin." "Sisbin was about as good as I should have been to my chicken, so when he suddenly attacked me shortly before he died, it made me think that they may well have emotions and would think well enough to want to poke my eye out."

This groundbreaking comic concept doesn't pull his punches with exciting that, like "Wasted," is for mature readers. In the opening sequence, readers will realize that the chicken...Jake Gallo...is apparently pulling some self-loving while looking at human porn. "The opening scene is definitely quite risqué, but I wanted to start on a strong note, establishing that in this book, anything can happen," he says. "I also wanted to establish quite quickly the idea that chickens have indeed become as humans, and very, very few normal young lovely males would see her, even respectfully, attracted to a half naked young woman, or man, if your beak-pecks float may."

That chicken must deal with the problems of regular people, as well as the problems that have to do with being chickens in a man's world goes to the heart of "Elmer's" plausibility. In the first issue, we accompany Jake as he tries to apply for a job, goes all pubs love and chickens to secure license because something is wrong with his father—the titular chicken Elmer. Aside from the obnoxious dialogue, as per Alanguilan's insanely detailed black-and-white art, more elaborate than anything he's done so far, inspired by the sketchbook Elmer, Alanguilan's artist friends sent their own chicken fan art, and Alanguilan was so impressed by the submissions that he included them in some issues as posters and paintings, something he plans to continue doing in the upcoming issues.

In creating Elmer, Alanguilan promises there is to what enabled these chickens to evolve as well as reveals the origin of Elmer in more detail. Every problem will be solved in the course of the series, he promises, but there are more questions than answers in this first issue.

"Elmer" Book 1 is available at Comiquest in Gil Megamall, Comics Odyssey in Robinson's Place, Malate and Cruz's Shop in Magallanes. For more information, log on to www.brainless.ph.

"Ghost Images" reader paperback DC/Wildstorm. "I'm also writing and drawing a horror strip for Manhattan called Johnny Balloon, and a full color science fiction story will soon pops a month in the pages of Pedge Magazine. I'm doing bit work for US companies here and there, but for the moment, I'm concentrating on my local projects."

The world of "Elmer" is a complicated mix, pit full of contradictions, including the fact that Jake, seeking with courage at being the victim of anti-chicken sentiment, disapproves of his sister May's fiancé because she hasn't a human. "Yeah, get over it," Jake thinks to himself. "It's not...I just mean to say."

Experience the birthing of a new avian age with "Elmer" Book 1, a profound and profane perspective on a planet gone fowl. "I'm not a vegetarian, but as I grow older I've realized the wisdom of eating less meat and more fruits and vegetables," Gerry Alanguilan explains. "But yes, I do vault and eat chicken. It's really one of my favorites."

"Elmer" Book 1 is available at Comiquest in Gil Megamall, Comics Odyssey in Robinson's Place, Malate and Cruz's Shop in Magallanes. For more information, log on to www.brainless.ph.

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   c) P50 E-vouchers from 7-Eleven, SMEC, and Mini-Stop
   d) Regular load from the new variants of 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited

4. The regular load (at least P100/month) you need in order to receive your 2nd and 3rd free service is a regular consumable load and is separate from the free service.

Examples:
- Subscriber activates his SIM on April 1 and enjoys 1st 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited and free 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls
- Subscriber must load P50 from April 1 to 30 to receive his next 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited and free 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls on May 1
- Subscriber enjoys his 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited and free 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls from May 1 to 4
- Subscriber must load another P99 from May 1 to 14 to receive his next 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited and free 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls on June 1

With your Sun SIM, you may load any of the following prepaid choices:

An invitation for Super peeps

¿Eres Indio?

Raya Martin's Super and so is his new film

By Pepe Diokno

ALL INDEPENDENCE DAY—IT'S A great, magical day when we all remember how much we love holidays. There's no school, the streets are empty and for some reason the weather's perfect.

So nothings to stop you from seeing Super filmmaker Raya Martin's "Mayong pilipinas nahig yung indio sa isang 10 ang Mahabang Kahagkanan ng Katagalugan." Or, didn't let the title stop you.

The film was written and directed by Raya, and you can expect damn solid performances from a cast led by Soliman Pineda.

It is set in the 1800s, in the midst of a brewing Filipino revolution. It follows the awkward life of an Indio—who, as a child, is a character we have to remember dates to the Spanish state and his people, in his teens, is caught in the pressures of the revolution; and, in his later years, is an actor in a most commonly escaping his troubled past.

It is clear this "Kids that identify foreign as a many Pilipinos have, many of us should realize the lack of dialogue does not take away from a film. The beauty of this movie is that it tells the Filipino experience with the universal language of emotion, terrific imagery and moving music. There are three things that are deep in Filipino culture, and they seem to touch foreign audiences as well.

Raya Martin's Super and so is his new film

"Indio Nacional" has been selected for this year's Rotterdam International Film Festival, the 35th Hong Kong International Film Festival, 49th San Francisco International Film Festival, and the 19th International Film Festival da Documentário de Marselha. It has closed the Sol Indie Cinema Film Festival, as well.

Wesley Huggins says, the film is "fascinating," and that it "confirms Martin's place as a talent to watch." Gerben Tuinhof of the International Film Festival Rotterdam says Martin "understood that." Roger Garcia of the San Francisco International Film Festival says the movie is, "one of the truly original works of contemporary Filipino cinema."

Wow. Double wow.

There isn't a better way to spend June the 12th. So, we'll see you at the movies!

The Philippine Premiere of Raya Martin's "Maynila, sa mga kuko ng liwanag" (Manila, in the Claws of Light) will be shown on June 12, 2006, 7:30 p.m. at Shang's Luxbox. It is presented by the Alliance Française and Philippine as part of the 15th French Film Festival. Entrance is 80 pesos.

Oh Tokyo!

A FEW A BOUT NITE PROPAGATE hopefuls, and other personal friends, have met the threat of bird, Heidi Jagath's latest band launch. DJ Mark Dizon, decided to take a gamble and bring friends, and here's a full new soundtrack: Tokyo Project.

The environment was an Italian and club network. Their theme song of Jessie Paredes's most loved tune, but don't be fooled. Although Dizon's debut compilation leans with the same summer vibe and "feel good" flavor, Tokyo Project takes listeners into relatively tougher late night territory. It's house music deeper (and deeper) than you'd think.

Paolo R. Reyes
Janina Cuenca-Dorin

Tokyo opens at 9 p.m. tonight for all to appreciate for the high-flying DJ's funky blend of upfront house in Manila. Labels with a totally new spin through the highly anticipated "Tokyo Disco" (still. Among Dizon of the decks to DJ name Romeo and the incidentally and the floor shot, Bonnie Baker (on the guitar) right, the voice behind "Bonnie Baker (on the guitar) right, the voice behind "Every Alibi").

Tickets are available at Mikel & Hong, Music Gear, Tower Records, and D Music outlets. Call 7236671 or 7245521.

Other Super 24/7 events:

June 10, Saturday

June 11, Sunday

June 12, Monday

June 13, Tuesday

June 14, Wednesday

June 15, Thursday

June 16, Friday